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PART 17.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

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CONFIDENTIAL.**Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.****PART 17.****No. 1.**

Mr. Barclay to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 1, 1898.)

(No. 327.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 29, 1897.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 228 of the 23rd instant, I informed the Spanish Government, confidentially, of the probability of the "Tourmaline" endeavouring to start from the Canary Islands with the object of landing arms and ammunition in Morocco.

I have the honour to transmit copy of Señor Gullon's reply, asking me to convey to Her Majesty's Government his most sincere thanks for this information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. BARCLAY.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Señor Gullon to Mr. Barclay.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Madrid, le 27 Décembre, 1897.

JE viens de recevoir la lettre Confidentielle que vous avez eu l'amabilité de m'adresser en date d'hier m'annonçant, par ordre de votre Gouvernement, le probable débarquement sur les côtes de Maroc de 500 caisses de carabines, et un nombre égal de caisses de cartouches, prises au port d'Anvers par le vapeur Anglais "Tourmaline."

En vous priant de transmettre au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique les plus sincères remerciements pour cette bienveillante information, je profite, &c.

(Signé) PIO GULLON.

No. 2.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 3, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 134 of the 23rd ultimo respecting the shipment of arms and ammunition at Antwerp by Major Spilsbury, I have to inform you that I have received a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, reporting that, according to private advices which had reached him on the 28th ultimo from Mogador, the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate was expected shortly to

arrive on the southern coast of Morocco. Sir A. Nicolson adds that he has given a private warning to the Moorish Government that arms and ammunition are likely to be disembarked on that coast.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 3.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 172 of the 22nd ultimo, reporting on various acts of murder and pillage committed by the Sultan's troops on British protected persons in the M'zab district.

I approve the steps taken by you in conjunction with the French Minister to obtain the prompt release of the women and children reported to be in the hands of the troops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 4.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 12, 1898.)

(No. 173.)

(My Lord,

Tangier, December 29, 1897.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 134 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report that I heard privately from Mr. Consul Maclean that, from information which he had received from Mogador, it would appear that Major Spilsbury was expected on the Sûs coast about this time, with a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition.

As a steamer was leaving for the coast ports yesterday, I sent a private warning to the Grand Vizier, there not being time before the departure of the post to address his Excellency directly on the subject. I have now written a confidential letter to the Grand Vizier, of which I beg leave to transmit a copy. I thought it advisable to request that, should any British subject be apprehended, he should be handed over unharmed to the nearest British Consular authority.

I am afraid that, if a successful landing is made of so large a number of rifles, with ammunition, the tribes in the Sûs district, when in possession of the arms, will give very serious trouble to the Moorish Government. I may add that, should Major Spilsbury be apprehended in the act of smuggling contraband goods into the Sûs district, he would render himself liable to prosecution and a very heavy fine or imprisonment under Article 107 of the Morocco Order in Council. The venture appears to be exceedingly ill-advised, and likely to cause serious consequences to those who are directly engaged in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(Confidential.)

(After compliments.)

Shaaban 3, 1315 (December 29, 1897).

I HASTEN to inform you, oh, friend! that information has reached me which would give grounds for believing that an endeavour may be made to land a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition from a steamer coming from a Belgian port on the south coast of Morocco.

As this act would be against the stipulations of Treaties, I wish to give you confidentially timely notice of what has reached me. Should any British subject be

apprehended by Moorish authorities in the prosecution of such an enterprise, I have to request that you will give orders that he should be handed over unharmed to the nearest British Consular authority, who will deal with him as the circumstances may justify.

And may you rest in peace, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 5.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 5, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 172 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to state that the French protégé who was reported as killed is alive and uninjured. The statement made on oath by the British mokhalat as to the death of the above individual is therefore untrue. The French Minister tells me that a relative of the French protégé, bearing the same name, was killed in the recent attack by the Sultan's troops, but not the man whom our informant swore he had buried with his own hands.

The protégé himself was in Tangier a few days ago, and Mr. Consul Maclean reports that, according to his information, the British "mokhalat" was not on the spot when the farm was pillaged. In view of this act of perjury on the part of the British mokhalat, I propose, as a warning to others, not to renew his certificate.

An inquiry is being made on the spot by officials of the British and French Consulates, and it will be well to await their Report before addressing any further communication to the Moorish Government. I believe there is little doubt that the homestead of the French and British protected persons was pillaged and the families carried off, so that the request made by my French colleague and myself with respect to the release of the latter may remain.

I regret to report that I hear from the Sultan's camp that the numerous prisoners in the hands of the Government are suffering great hardships, and in many cases torture. The devastating expeditions may establish the Sultan's authority for a time, but they impoverish the district in which they are conducted, and give rise to many claims on the Moorish Government from foreign merchants. To meet these claims raids are made on some other districts, and a similar condition of affairs again presents itself.

The methods adopted by the Moorish Government to arrange foreign claims, unjust and arbitrary as the former are, exercise almost a deterrent effect on the prosecution of those claims by the authorities. The guilty escape, and the innocent are punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 6.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 17, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have to-day received information from Mogador that Major Spilsbury has landed at a port in Sûs with arms and ammunition. The neighbouring tribes are said to have received him well.

No. 7.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 18, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1 of the 5th instant in regard to matters connected with the outrages committed on British and French protected persons in the M'zab district by the Sultan's troops.

I have to inform you that the action which you propose to take is approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 8.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 18, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 173 of the 29th ultimo in regard to the information which you have received of the intention of Major Spilsbury, the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate, to land on the Sûs coast with a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition.

I approve the note which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier, giving him confidential notice of what has come to your knowledge in the matter, and requesting that should any British subject be apprehended by the Moorish authorities in the prosecution of such an enterprise he may be handed over, unharmed, to the nearest British Consular authority.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 9.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 21, 1898.

TELEGRAPHIC information has been received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Las Palmas that Major Spilsbury is now at Wad Nun, and that the "Tourmaline" is coaling at Arrecife, Lanzarote.

No. 10.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 10, 1898.

THE local press recently reported that the court-martial which had assembled at Malaga to try the Riffians who are detained in prison at Alhucemas for complicity in the attack on a French sailing-vessel last year, in which some Spaniards lost their lives, had delivered a sentence on the accused of imprisonment for life, and had also condemned the Moorish Government to pay an indemnity of 1,000,000 pesetas.

I asked the Spanish Minister whether the above report was accurate; and M. de Ojeda informs me that it is true that the court-martial has delivered a sentence of imprisonment for life; but that it could have no power to impose a fine on the Moorish Government. He himself some time ago had presented a claim for 77,000 pesetas—about 2,400l.—calculating 25,000 pesetas for each individual who had lost his life; and about 2,500 pesetas for each man who had been wounded.

It is to be presumed that the condemned men will receive the benefit of the free pardon which the Spanish Minister announced to the Bocoya tribe would be granted on the European captives being liberated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

5

No. 11.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 11, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 173 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Grand Vizier has requested Kaïd Maclean to tender his warmest thanks for the warning which your Lordship conveyed to him in regard to the possible disembarkation in the Sûs district of arms and ammunition from the steam-ship "Tourmaline." His Excellency at once dispatched couriers to the Sûs to put the Moorish authorities on the alert, though he said they had been on the watch for some time past. He doubted Major Spilsbury being able to effect anything, but he was none the less grateful to your Lordship for the friendly and prompt warning.

I have received no news myself as to the movements of the "Tourmaline," though the French Minister informs me that he had heard that she had arrived at the Canaries on the 25th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 11, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Frost, describing the arrival in Rabat of a number of prisoners from the camp of the Sultan.

I am also informed that a number of heads arrived at Fez, and that the Jewish cobblers, whose duty it is to affix the heads on to the town gates, requested, without success, to be absolved from performing this task on their Sabbath.

The condition of the prisoners in the Sultan's camp is, according to my information, most pitiful, many dying from exposure and want. Owing to the exertions of Kaïd Maclean, they have now been provided with tents, which will afford some protection in the present inclement weather. I also learn that two more tribes were "punished" on the 3rd instant, and many prisoners sent into camp.

The Sultan proposes to return very shortly to Morocco city, and it is to be hoped that the country will be allowed some respite from any more expeditions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Vice-Consul Frost to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Rabat, January 7, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that a most painful sensation has been caused in this town by the arrival on the 5th instant of between 400 and 500 prisoners of the Mzab tribe sent here by the Sultan's orders for imprisonment. No words can express the horror of the scene, as these poor wretches were paraded in batches, heavily chained neck to neck, through the principal street of the town, and compelled, under pain of strokes from the soldiery armed with sticks, to cry "God bless the Sultan." Several too weak to walk, and some in a dying state, were carried in baskets on mules.

There being no room in the prisons here for these unfortunate people, they have been temporarily placed in a square magazine facing the sea, exposed to all the rigours of the weather, pending the preparation of additional prison room. It is scarcely necessary to add that death mercifully terminates the sufferings of some of these poor creatures daily.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN FROST.

No. 13.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 15, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 152 of the 12th November, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier relative to the opening of Cape Juby to trade. I should be glad to be informed if your Lordship would wish me to urge the Moorish Government to hasten the completion of the arrangements which would enable merchants to transact commerce through that port. Sufficient time has elapsed since the signature of the Convention for the establishment of custom-houses, but it is probable that the Moorish authorities are desirous of postponing as long as possible the performance of their obligations under the Convention, as a certain expenditure would in the first place be necessary with little prospect of any immediate returns. There are, moreover, other considerations which deter the Moorish Government from opening the port to trade; and until the British commercial community evince a real desire to trade through Cape Juby, I am personally of opinion that it would be as well to leave the matter alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.)

17th Rajab, 1315, (December 12, 1897).

YOUR letter has reached, oh beloved friend, recalling your previous correspondence relative to the opening of the Port of Cape Juby, after the arrangement of the measures which are necessary beforehand. And you now ask whether these arrangements have been completed or not, in order that those of your merchants who desire to go there to trade may do so.

I have brought this to the knowledge of His Majesty, and he is aware of it. He has instructed me to reply to you, oh friend, and lay the facts before you. His Majesty (compliments) still has the intention to arrange the said measures, and derive the benefits which will accrue therefrom, and nobody must go there until these measures are first established, of the importance of which you are aware. When these are accomplished I will inform you—by the help of Allah.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 14.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 16, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit translation of the reply of the Grand Vizier to the Joint Note of my French colleague and myself in regard to the capture of the women and children of British and French protected persons. I believe that there are good hopes of recovering the women and children, who appear for the most part to have fled for refuge to neighbouring districts.

Subsequent information would seem to show that the French Minister was misled as to the safety of the French Semsar, and that the man was in reality killed. I am, therefore, withholding the withdrawal of the British Mokhalat's certificate, who appeared to have made a false statement in regard to that point, till authentic news reaches me.

I need hardly make any observations on the note of the Grand Vizier, which is a somewhat involved defence of the action of the Government. I think it will be more advisable to limit any further communication which I may have to make to a simple

statement of the direct losses suffered by British subjects and British protected persons, without entering into a discussion with his Excellency as to the methods of internal Government in this country.

Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-baida is making a careful inquiry into the various claims which have been presented up to the present date, and in sifting all the evidence brought forward in support of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.)

2nd Shaaban, 1315 (December 27, 1897).

YOUR letter, oh intelligent friend, of the 26th Rajab, sealed with your seal and signed by you and the respected French Minister has reached, referring to the news you have received of the punishment of the corrupt of the Kabila of Shaouia by the Government, and amongst them Mohammed-ben-Ali-el-Rami and Bendawd and others of Mzab have requested the release of their wives and children, and that they be sent to Dar-al-baida. I reported this to His Shereefian Majesty, and he took cognizance of it. He has instructed me to lay the facts before you as they are, that you may be aware of the course of this matter. You are aware that the Kabila of Shaouia is one of the most considerable Kabilas of this Empire, and the Government gives great attention to its affairs and hastens to root up all traces of corruption that may appear in parts of it, as it ranks with the Government as one of the towns, as is well known. But some of the worst people of this Kabila were killing and robbing the others and despoiling their honour and violating their harems. Amongst other things occurred the affair of Mzab, the news of which was spread far and wide, and the greater part of the Kabila was affected, and even those who were known as good people belonging to the Zaouias, &c., joined the corrupt, and they agreed to fight for each other. The Government, however, spared no pains to settle and reconcile them both before and after His Majesty set out from Marakesh, as perhaps they might leave their bad ways and return to right and peacefulness, which alone would insure the safety of the roads and property; but this only increased their evil doings, &c., and there was no alternative but to punish them thoroughly to put a stop to their folly, and check them. The haste displayed by the Makhzen to set out from Marakesh personally, in the rainy season, was to settle the matter before the corruption attained more serious proportions. The Government sent notices of warning at Tangier through Hadj Abdelkrim Brisha—may Allah be merciful to him—and renewed them through the Amin Cid Benasser Gunam, from its desire to put an end to the corruption, the influence of which had spread far and near, as highway robbery and the robbery of the goods of the merchants. When the Government commenced to punish the corrupt portions, it left those deserving of respect, such as the Zaouias, &c., as they were without harming any of them until they themselves tore away the veil of shame and inviolability, and by the fleeing of the corrupt to them, and their receiving and supporting, they became worse than the corrupt themselves. And when those sent by Government demanded that the corrupt be sent out to take them prisoners only, they fired upon them with magazine rifles of sixteen shots and similar arms, and above thirty men, among them, Kaïd Buselham-el-Aarwi, and forty horses were killed on the Government side by one party alone. The Government is sure of praise and of your approval for this punishment and its results, which will be general tranquillity to the benefit of the Government, the people, and the merchants of the friendly foreign nations. No wise person can agree to allow the corrupt to continue in their corruption, and if it happened that any foreign subjects were among the corrupt and incited them against the Government, it was impossible to allow him to continue doing so, but it was necessary to strike him and seize him, and if he was killed his blood was shed with impunity, as is not concealed from you, oh intelligent and just one; and if he were a foreigner, he had left his nation and cleft himself from its protection and good offices with a friendly Government. Also, of all the bands of the corrupt when the Government arrived in their land, there remained not one who dare lift his hand in war against it, but they turned their backs and took refuge in flight, so how is it that the Makhzen has combated with those who had not that intention. Had they been honourable men they would have had regard for their position, and have removed to a place of safety until the matter was

settled, for verily the peaceable man, if he saw the corruption spreading, would not remain in that place unless he had joined hands with them. This was seen, and they notified it, believing that it would serve them; although every Government only occupies itself, on the spread of corruption, in stopping it by any means in their power, and more so as this expedition was undertaken in the first place for this purpose; and it is expected that, if you consider all this, oh intelligent just one, you will agree and approve, as is known of your Excellency the wisely counselled. As to the women and children, the Government did not authorize the capture of any of them, as the Government has no use for them, nor does it desire to impose trouble upon itself for them. The only object was to punish the strong who were striving in corruption, and to settle the country, and if any of them (women and children?) departed and fled, frightened by the fighting, and then strayed on the roads and in the valley, when they were discovered by the officers of the troops, the Government took them up from compassion for them being left exposed to death from hunger and cold in an uninhabited country until it knew their relations, or they were handed over to the Zaouias to deliver them to their people, and for no other reason.

May you remain, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 15.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 8.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 18, 1898.

THE British Vice-Consul at Mogador has addressed a private letter, dated the 14th instant, to Mr. Consul White, stating that information, which he appeared to consider trustworthy, had reached him to the effect that Major Spilsbury had landed from the "Tourmaline," at the port of Arksis in the Sus district. He had apparently succeeded in disembarking the arms and ammunition, and it was reported that he had been well received by the tribes.

Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston adds that several tribes who had formerly been considered loyal to the Government had joined the malcontents, but he attributes, probably with reason, this defection to the irresistible attraction of obtaining rifles and ammunition in considerable quantity. Mr. Johnston promises to report more fully when he is in a position to receive further details.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 16.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 10. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 21, 1898.

I HEAR, confidentially, from the Sultan's camp that the French Minister has recently addressed a note to the Grand Vizier, in which he explained to his Excellency that the difficulties which had arisen in the Riff district, owing to the depredations of the Bocoya pirates, had been satisfactorily settled by the friendly intervention of the French Legation. M. de Moubel, it is reported, impressed on the Grand Vizier that the action of the French authorities had been dictated by their strong feelings of friendship towards the Moorish Government, and he concluded by requesting payment of a sum of 20,000 dollars, about 3,000*l.*, on account of the expenses which had been incurred during the negotiations with the Bocoyan tribe, and also as compensation to the relatives of the French sailor who had died in captivity.

The Moorish Government heard, simultaneously with this communication from the French Minister, from some of their Agents in the Riff country, that the French Consular Agent at Tetuan had been paying several visits to the Bocoyan tribe, and that the latter, fearing that the Moorish Government contemplated attacking them, had asked for French protection. My informant states that this news consider-

ably agitated the Grand Vizier, who immediately sent orders to all the Riff tribes to fall upon the Bocoyans and take them all prisoners.

It may be doubtful whether the recipients of these orders will give a prompt obedience to them, and it is also a question whether the measures will be effectively carried out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 17.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 23, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 172 of the 22nd December, 1897, I have the honour to report that Mr. Consul Maclean informs me that the women and children of the British Semsar, and of the British Mokhalat have been recovered, and are now in safety.

Mr. Maclean states that his clerk, whom he had sent to the places where the Sultan's troops have been recently operating, reports that the homestead of the above-mentioned two individuals has been completely razed to the ground, as is also the case with the houses of several other British commercial agents. He is preparing an official report on the occurrences, and on the losses suffered by those in business relations with British subjects, and is taking pains to check and verify, as far as is possible, the statements of the several witnesses.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 18.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 31, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that information has just reached me that by a combined movement of the steamer of the Moorish Government and the Sultan's troops, Major Spilsbury's party has been captured, the Major himself, however, escaping on board the "Tourmaline."

Two Englishmen, two sailors of the "Tourmaline," and the interpreter, a Jew of Mogador, form the party captured, and are to be taken overland to the Sultan's camp. Consul Maclean's clerk, with despatches giving details, has arrived here on the Moorish steamer.

No. 19.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 31, 1898.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 2 of the 31st January, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, the prisoners having been taken on the 19th, have now probably reached the Sultan's camp. I have communicated with the Grand Vizier asking him to send the prisoners to the Consul at Dar-al-Baida without delay. I am instructing the latter to forward them here. I would suggest that, considering all the circumstances, it would be better that the prisoners should be tried here and should be prosecuted by the Attorney-General of Gibraltar, under Article 107 of Morocco Order in Council.

No. 20.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 1, 1898.

I APPROVE the proposals contained in your telegrams Nos. 2 and 3.

No. 21.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 1, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 6 of the 15th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note from the Grand Vizier relating to the opening of Cape Juby to trade.

I agree with the view expressed in your despatch that it is undesirable to move in this matter at the present moment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 22.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 8.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 1, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 7 of the 16th ultimo, forwarding the reply of the Grand Vizier to the joint note which you and your French colleague had addressed to him with regard to the capture of the women and children of British and French protected persons in Mzab.

I approve the limits in which you propose, under the present circumstances, to confine your further communications with the Grand Vizier on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 22*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3, 10.30 P.M.)

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 3, 1898, 7.20 A.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 2: Sûs case.

It is considered desirable by Attorney-General of Gibraltar that, if possible, evidence should be obtained from Antwerp proving shipment of arms on board the "Tourmaline," and giving particulars of their value and quantity. Would it be possible to ask Her Majesty's Consul-General at that port to furnish such evidence?

In order to insure the success of prosecution, considerable time will be required as well as expense in getting the evidence needed, owing to the distance of the locality which was the scene of the occurrences. Doubtless your Lordship will nevertheless wish that everything should be done to insure the thorough investigation of the case.

No. 23.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 5, 1898.

TELEGRAPHIC information has been received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Las Palmas to the effect that the "Tourmaline" was put in quarantine on her arrival there yesterday.

No. 24.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 29, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, reporting the disembarkation in the Sus district of Major Spilsbury with arms and ammunition. This information has also reached several of my colleagues from various sources; and the Legation Banker, Mr. Abensur, tells me that he has received a private letter from a friend in Mogador stating that one of Major Spilsbury's party, a Mr. Grey or Gray, had died or has been killed.

All the information which has reached Mogador and Tangier is, however, vague and uncertain, and cannot be considered trustworthy.

I doubt if the support of the Shereef-el-Hashem is sincere. This personage, who is known as the Shereef of Tasserowalt, does not enjoy the position and influence of the late Shereef, his father; and he has, I believe, of late been anxious to render himself agreeable to the Government who recently took away a considerable part of the district over which he exercised jurisdiction. I may mention that some weeks ago a friend of the Shereef called upon me to inquire whether the Globe Venture Syndicate was a powerful Company and whether it was regarded with favour by Her Majesty's Government.

I told this gentleman that I advised no one to have any dealings with the Globe Venture or any other Company whose undertakings had not received the sanction of the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)

Sir,

Dar-al-Baida, January 25, 1898.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a despatch received this morning from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston communicating to me the substance of rumours current in Mogador.

According to them a party of Europeans have disembarked and landed a quantity of war material in the vicinity of Assaka, Sus.

It is said that they have been cordially received by the inhabitants, and that a powerful Shereef, named Sid Mohamed-ben-Hashem, has united the tribes on the side of the landing party.

Kaïd Guilooly is, according to Mr. Johnston's information, with his army between Agadir and Tizneet, and therefore cuts off any attempts at communication by land between the Europeans who have landed and their friends at Mogador.

I gather that Mr. Johnston believes that the tribes are irritated with the exactions of Kaïd Guilooly and therefore ready to side with any one who will help them to resist the Sultan's authority.

If this be so Kaïd Guilooly must be less skilful in diplomacy than are most Orientals.

It would appear to me more possible that the tribes are friendly with the object of obtaining what they can from the Europeans, and afterwards the latter will fall into the hands of the Moorish authorities.

But all this is conjecture, and I cannot imagine that Europeans would attempt a landing unless they held hostages for their own safety, or were sufficiently powerful in themselves to resist force or treachery.

In the meantime the steamer "Hassanee" has been absent several days from Mogador, presumably at Cape Juby. Mr. Johnston has no doubt that it is Major Spilsbury who has landed in Sus.

I respectfully submit that by sending a steamer to the scene of the supposed landing it would be easy to ascertain what amount of foundation on fact there is in these rumours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Consul Maclean.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Mogador, January 20, 1898.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the projects of the Globe Venture Syndicate, I have the honour to report the substance of various rumours which have reached me during the past few days, which are to the effect that Europeans have landed from a steamer at or near Assaka, disembarked a considerable quantity of arms and some merchandize, and have been received with cordiality by the tribes in the vicinity of Assaka.

As the Government troops, under Kaïd Guilooly, occupy the territory between Tizneet and Agadir, no news has come directly from the Europeans, all couriers from Assaka being doubtless stopped by Kaïd Guilooly's orders.

There is no doubt, however, in my mind that the Europeans in question are Major Spilsbury and his friends, as he is known to have lately been in the Canaries with the "Tourmaline" en route for Assaka.

The "Hassance" has been absent from Mogador for some days, presumably at Cape Juby.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

P.S.—I am assured confidently by a friend of Major Spilsbury that Le Mohamed-ben-Hashem, of Eliagh, is compromised in the Globe Syndicate's doings, and has undertaken to form a combination of tribes to resist the Sultan's troops. In the present temper of the Sus people, irritated by Kaïd Guilooly's exactions, anything in this direction seems possible.

R. L. N. J.

No. 25.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 31, 1898.

I THINK it right to inform your Lordship that, of late, provincial Governors and officials have been acting towards British protected persons and British Commercial Agents in a manner which is in violation of Treaty stipulations; and, though their action has been brought to the notice of the Moorish Government, no satisfaction has been obtained. Several cases of the arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of individuals of both the above categories have been brought by me to the notice of the Grand Vizier, but my representations have been met with evasive and unsatisfactory replies. The British-protected persons or semsars have usually been released after a short detention, but invariably with the loss of some effects or property taken from them at the time of arrest, and the return of which is withheld. The usual plea is ignorance of the character of the arrested person, a plea which, in the cases before me, is manifestly untrue. The Commercial Agents are usually kept in detention, though they have been arrested without the notice required by the Convention of Madrid having been given either to the British Consular authorities or to the employers of the individuals in question.

No doubt during the recent expeditions of the Sultan's forces Moorish officials have been reckless in seizing any persons on whom they could lay their hands, and in times of excitement this mode of proceeding may be to a certain extent explicable. Nevertheless, when the several cases have been brought to the notice of the higher authorities, it was to be expected that the zeal of the minor officials would be checked, and immediate redress afforded.

Such has, hitherto, unfortunately not been the case, and it is to be regretted that the Moorish Government has not shown any disposition to cause their officials to properly observe Treaty engagements.

British interests alone have not suffered, but, being larger than those of other countries, the instances in which complaints have been made are more numerous than in other cases. I do not wish at this moment to trouble your Lordship with details of the several cases, as I am still in correspondence with the Grand Vizier; but I have ventured to draw the attention of your Lordship in general terms to a course of action which is causing very considerable inconvenience and loss to British commercial interests.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 26.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 31, 1898.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BEWICKE informs me privately that a certain number of Bocoyan Riffs, who, it is said, are to be followed by many more, have arrived at Tetuan en route for Tangier and Algeria. According to his information, it would appear that these Bocoyans have been engaged by the French Consular Agent for service in the Franco-Algerian army. Each man is to receive 40 dollars (about 6*l.*) for the expenses of removing his family, and engages to serve for four years at a daily pay of 1 peseta (about 7*d.*). After four years these men will receive papers granting them French protection, and may return to their homes should they so desire.

If this information be correct, the conditions which are offered will attract many Riffians besides the Bocoyans, and by these means a large portion of the Riff country would gradually pass under French protection, while a trained force of good fighting material would be at the disposal of the French authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 27.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 40. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Berlin, February 2, 1898.

THE Emperor asked me yesterday afternoon whether I had any information with regard to a telegram which had appeared in the morning papers reporting the arrest in Morocco of five Englishmen.

On my replying that, as I had only just returned to Berlin, and had not seen the report, His Majesty said that they apparently belonged to the Globe Syndicate, of which Sir Edward Thornton, formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, was the Chairman. There had apparently been some fighting, and the "Tourmaline," the vessel which belonged to the Company, had exchanged shots with a Moroccan ship of war.

I replied that I had no information on the subject, but that I was aware that the Syndicate in question had been warned that the Moroccan Government would not permit them to trade on the Sus coast, and that, if they persisted in doing so, they would not be supported by Her Majesty's Government if they got into difficulties.

His Majesty said that it seemed to be a repetition of the Jameson raid, and made a sarcastic remark about a trade which supplied the Sus tribes with rifles and ammunition, to which I replied that it was only a very risky commercial venture in which the Company had been clearly given to understand that they could not hope for any assistance from the Government.

His Majesty said that his reason for asking me the question was that he was aware that Spain was very sensitive about everything which concerned Morocco, and he was glad to hear that the incident was not likely to lead to complications with that country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 28.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 7, 1898.

GLOBE Venture case.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the "Tourmaline" was at Mogador, where she remained two days, being kept in quarantine, and then left presumably for England.

As to the five prisoners, they include a Syrian interpreter, a Portuguese sailor, one German, and two British subjects. Major Spilsbury, who was on board at Mogador, has written to British Vice-Consul asking that his party may be instantly released, as they were, he says, merely being entertained by the tribes at the time when the Sultan's troops appeared.

No. 29.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1898.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 4 of the 3rd instant.

Should there be reason to suppose that the "Tourmaline" landed arms, or that it was attempted to land them, it would be very desirable that the good faith of Her Majesty's Government should be shown by prosecuting the offenders, provided that they can obtain sufficient evidence.

Her Majesty's Consul-General at Antwerp will be communicated with.

No. 30.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 16.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 1, 1898.

YESTERDAY morning Mr. Broome, clerk to Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, arrived here in the Moorish steamer, the "Hassanee," and delivered to me despatches from Mr. Consul Maclean and Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston, copies of which I have the honour to transmit, reporting the capture at the port of Arksis of some Englishmen who had landed there from the "Tourmaline" for the purpose of opening-up trade relations with the tribes of the Sûs. In a private letter, received by the same opportunity, Mr. Maclean informed me that he had learnt that Major Spilsbury had succeeded in escaping in the "Tourmaline" and was supposed to have gone to the Canaries. In order to obtain the fullest information possible as to what had occurred, I requested the Captain of the "Hassanee," a German subject, to call, and I beg leave to transmit copy of the statement which he made before Her Majesty's Consul.

The attitude of the "Tourmaline," on board of which was apparently Major Spilsbury, was very defiant, and her unprovoked firing at the "Hassanee," and on the boats of the latter would, I should think, be actionable. The "Hassanee" is a Moorish Government vessel and was performing a perfectly justifiable duty in the territorial waters of His Shereefian Majesty. In the discharge of this duty he was insulted and fired at by a vessel flying British colours, and engaged in an illicit trade.

I have as yet no direct evidence that the "Tourmaline" has actually landed arms and ammunition: some reports say that she had landed none, others that she had landed a small quantity; though all agree in stating that she had disembarked rice and sugar. The disembarkation of any merchandize at a port or place not open to trade, and where there were no custom houses, would, I submit, bring those engaged in such traffic within the provisions of Article 107 and also those of Article 108 of the Morocco Order in Council: the latter Article sanctions but a light punishment, and it would, I think, be preferable in the circumstances to apply Article 107.

I have asked the Grand Vizier to send the prisoners here as, if your Lordship agrees to my proposal, as provided in Sub-Article 2 of Article 107, that the Attorney-General of Gibraltar should prosecute them on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, it would be more convenient that the trial should take place within easy access of Gibraltar. Moreover, so much publicity has been given to the affair, which to my mind is a very grave and premeditated infraction of Treaty engagements, that it would be better that the legal proceedings were conducted in Tangier and not at a coast port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Dar-al-Baida, January 29, 1898.

THE inclosed despatches for your Excellency, and one for me, copy of which I inclose, have just arrived from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston.

Major Spilsbury and his party have been taken prisoners, apparently through the treachery of his supposed partisans.

I am directing Mr. Johnston to do his utmost to save the prisoners from being badly treated.

I am sending the despatches by my clerk, Mr. Broome, so that your Excellency may be certain to receive the news with the least possible delay and direct.

It is already public property at Dar-al-Baida.

I have instructed Mr. Broome to gather as much information as possible on board the "Hassanee."

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Consul Maclean.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Mogador, January 24, 1898.

REFERRING to my No. 3 of the 20th instant, reporting the landing of Europeans at or near Assaka, I have now the honour to state that in a letter written to a friend of mine by Kaïd Guilooly's Khalifa, dated the 29th Shaban, received to-day, he says news has reached him from Erksees that the Guilooly's troops had attacked the tribesmen who were with the Europeans at that place, beaten them, taken possession of "furniture" and tents, and secured some prisoners. With the usual native absence of detail, he does not mention who the prisoners are; but a rumour is about that among them are Christians and a Jew. He ends his letter by thanking God for Islam's victory over others.

The "Hassanee" and another steamer (presumably the "Tourmaline") are reported to be at Erksees.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Mogador, January 26, 1898.

THE dispatch of the steamer "Hassanee" to-morrow morning for Tangier, with a brief stoppage at Dar-al-Baida, affords me an opportunity of reporting to your Excellency the arrest by Kaïd Guilooly of four European members of the Globe Venture Syndicate expedition.

Information derived from various sources shows that the steamer "Tourmaline," bought or chartered by the Syndicate, and loaded in a Belgian port with arms, ammuni-

tion, and some merchandize, arrived off Erksees about twelve days ago. After some delay, owing to bad sea, four Englishmen and a Jewish interpreter landed with a quantity of arms, &c., and were well received by a large number of Sbouya and other tribesmen. Tents were pitched, and some sort of a camp formed. The "Hassanee" arrived soon after from Mogador with a contingent of troops. A day or two later Kaïd Guilooly marched into position from the north, and a certain amount of fighting seems to have taken place, as a result of which the native partisans of the Globe Venture Syndicate gave up their five European friends to Kaïd Guilooly. An eye-witness of the surrender informs me that the troops and captain of the "Hassanee" were also present, and that the Englishmen were not badly treated, so I am inclined to hope that a rumour of their having been put in irons is founded on imagination rather than fact.

What Kaïd Guilooly intends doing with his prisoners I am unable, at present, to say, but I presume they will, sooner or later, be brought to Mogador, in which case I shall lose no time in reporting further to Mr. Consul Maclean, whom I am keeping informed of events as I learn them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 30.

Statement of B. Siebert, Captain of Steam-ship "Hassanee."

On the 1st day of February, 1898, personally appeared before me Mr. B. Siebert, master of the Moorish steam-ship "Hassanee," and declared as follows:—

On the 12th January I received orders to proceed from Mogador to the south, we left Mogador at 3 P.M. that day with fifty Moorish soldiers on board and some Moorish officials; on the following day, the 13th January, at 2 P.M., we arrived near Arksis, and saw a steamer of about 200 tons, more or less, with one funnel and two masts, with a screw, which I subsequently learnt was the "Tourmaline." She was flying a British blue ensign, with a yellow patch in the fly. As we approached she shipped anchor and steamed slowly away. We followed and signalled to her to stop as we had something to communicate. When we were near enough, i.e., within about three ships' lengths, we lowered a boat with the chief officer and some men on board, whom I had instructed to instruct the "Tourmaline" to follow us to Mogador; on seeing our boat being lowered the "Tourmaline" steamed away, we tried to follow her, but finding that she could out-distance us, we returned to our former position, whence we saw some tents on shore. We anchored about 1,200 metres from the landing-place. On the shore we saw 300 or 400 Moors with some Europeans amongst them, and I arranged with the Moorish officials on board that, as we could not catch the "Tourmaline" we should endeavour to arrest the Europeans on shore. The "Tourmaline" returned to within 300 yards of us, and thinking that she would probably attempt to embark the Europeans, we lowered three boats with all our soldiers to patrol in front of the landing-place, and prevent the Europeans from embarking. When our boats came near the shore the Moors fired upon them from the shore, this happened two or three times, and then our men returned the fire, killing some of the Moors, as I subsequently learnt from Kaïd Guilooly. I do not think the Europeans on shore fired. On one occasion when one boat was near the "Tourmaline" she signalled, "If you do not clear off we will fire," and at the same time about six rifle shots were fired over the boat. The "Tourmaline" also fired a shot from a quick-firing gun over the "Hassanee" which was flying the Moorish flag. During five days the "Tourmaline" kept holding off and on, going away at night, and we kept our boats patrolling, and prevented communication between ship and shore. In the meantime we had sent off a boat with a messenger to Kaïd Guilooly; he landed at a place called Mulai Abdullah about 20 miles to the north, and thence he went with the letter to Kaïd Guilooly, whom he met on the road from Tisneet to Arksis. On Monday afternoon of the 17th January, we saw a number of horsemen riding in the direction of Arksis, when they approached the people of Arksis opened fire on them and they returned the fire; after about 10 minutes' firing the Arksis people ran away, and the horsemen rode in and pulled down the tents, and hauled down the green flag that had been flying, hoisting the red flag in its place. The Europeans escaped with the people of Arksis.

When the "Tourmaline" saw what had occurred she steamed south and we followed her; she stopped near a landing-place about 7 miles off down the coast, and we remained there too. The following morning, the 18th January, seeing a boat near

shore ready to be launched, we sent our boat off, but subsequently noticing that there were a number of Moors behind the rocks on shore we called our boat back. The "Tourmaline" signalled: "If your boat comes near we will fire at her."

About midday we noticed with our glasses that a number of tents had been pitched at Arksis, and finding that the shore boat did not put off we came to the conclusion that the Europeans had fled in a different direction, and we returned to Arksis. The "Tourmaline" also returned, and seeing the number of tents steamed away and we saw her no more.

I landed the same afternoon and met Kaïd Guilooly. Whilst I was there two men of the Sbonya tribe came in and reported that they had five Europeans locked up in a house in the mountains about five hours distant.

On the following day, 19th January, the five prisoners were brought in. One gentleman's name is Mr. Grey, another—apparently a German—named Beyerle. There were also two sailors from the "Tourmaline" and a Jewish interpreter from Mogador.

Mr. Grey spoke to me and inquired if I was captain of the "Hassanee," and on my replying that I was, he inquired why he was arrested. I said I had nothing to say in the matter, and referred him to Kaïd Guilooly. Mr. Grey then said to Kaïd Guilooly that by the Treaty with Great Britain there was free trade in all Morocco for British subjects. Kaïd Guilooly did not argue with him, but informed him that he was going to take him to Tisneet and on to the Sultan.

The prisoners were well treated. I left for Cape Juby and returned to Arksis six days later, but saw nothing.

(Signed) B. SIEBERT, Captain,
Steam-ship "Hassanee."

Declared before me this 1st day of February, 1898.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE,
Her Majesty's Consul.

No. 31.

Globe Venture Syndicate to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

77 and 78, Palmerston Buildings, London,
February 8, 1898.

My Lord,

IN view of the conflicting and exaggerated reports of the incidents on the Sûs coast which have appeared in various journals, we beg to inclose herewith copy of a despatch of the 19th January, which we have received from our Administrator, Major A. Gybbon-Spilsbury.

We venture to request that, in the event of the five persons, Messrs. Beyerle, Grey, Larst, Sabbah (interpreter) and an A.B. sailor (name not given) mentioned in the said despatch, not being released immediately on their being handed over to the British authorities in Morocco, they being illegally detained, and that, should it be considered desirable to try them before Her Majesty's Consular Courts in Morocco, or any other place that Her Majesty's Government may decide, that your Lordship will be good enough to give us timely notice of the trial so that the captives and ourselves may be duly and legally represented.

We also take this opportunity of placing it on record that our shipments were only made after due consideration and under competent legal advice; therefore we hold his Imperial Majesty the Sultan responsible for the loss and damage we have already sustained, and which we may sustain in the future as a consequence of His Majesty's action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. ALLEN, Secretary.

Inclosure in No. 31.

*Major Spilsbury to the Globe Venture Syndicate.**Steam-yacht "Tourmaline," at Arrecife de Lauzarote,
January 19, 1898.*

Dear Sirs,

I HAVE with much regret to report most unsatisfactory developments of our expedition.

We left Arrecife on the 28th ultimo and arrived off the coast of Sús the following day.

On the 30th we sighted Erkses Cove, and the natives soon began to congregate on the cliff, but the surf was running too high for any of our boats to land till the 4th January.

We were most cordially welcomed, and proceeded to land our tents and stores.

On the 6th we had a meeting with the Representatives of twenty-five tribes, they showed us letters from fifteen other tribes, amongst them that of Sidi Hosein-ben-Hashem, who all agreed to the terms of the Treaty of last July.

I explained that I could only land my goods in exchange for cash or goods, and that I wished Sidi Hosein to come down to the coast himself, or to send down a Representative with the money. They promised to write to him and have an answer in two or three days.

Towards evening we returned on board, Messrs. Grey, Beyerle, and Sabbah preferring to stay on shore to see if they could get some shooting.

We no sooner got aboard than a breeze sprang up, and our cable parted, losing one of our two anchors. For two days the weather got worse, and on the 10th culminated in a gale from the north-west, which forced us to put to sea, leaving the steam pinnace at anchor, as it was too rough to hoist her aboard.

All night the gale was furious, and we had to jettison some of the cargo to lighten the ship.

By the 13th the weather had improved, and we returned to our former anchorage; the launch had broken adrift, and smashed up on the rocks.

At noon we were preparing to land again, when the Sultan's ship "Hassanee" appeared in the offing. As she neared us she signalled "I wish to communicate." She lowered two boats with upwards of 100 armed men, who tried to rush us, but we kept out of their reach, and then steamed close under her stern and hailed her, but she would not reply.

I therefore fired a round from our gun to sea as a signal to our people ashore, and a warning that we were armed.

On the 14th the "Hassanee's" boat opened fire on the camp, but were forced to retire under the fire of the Sousis.

The next day we cruised to the north-east and met two surf-boats, which the Sousis had borrowed at Ifin. By one of them we sent a letter to our people. They were chased by the "Hassanee's" boats, but got away through the surf, though damaged on the rocks.

On the 17th one of them was repaired, and came off bringing Sabbah, who reported that Grey and Beyerle would come off the following day at the mouth of the Assaka River, some 6 miles south-west, so we steamed down to the rendezvous taking the surf-boat and crew with us.

At daybreak on the 19th we lowered it and sent it ashore with Mr. Larst, second officer, Sabbah, one A.B. and five of the Sousis to bring off Messrs. Grey and Beyerle. As the "Hassanee" was bearing down upon us, I gave them a Union Jack to hoist on the boat, and told them to return at once, if Grey and Beyerle were not there. To our surprise we saw them climb up the cliff to join a party of Sousis, who came along from the camp carrying a green flag and firing three shots, the agreed signal.

Some of them ran down the cliff to the boat, took out the oars, &c., and then went back. Then the whole party disappeared inland.

When our boat was rowing to the shore the "Hassanee" came up and lowered one of her boats, full of armed men to chase them. I therefore cleared for action and signalled, "I shall fire on your boats if you persist in coming alongside." She acknowledged the signal and her boat kept off.

After waiting some hours for signs of our men, we noticed large bodies of men moving on the site of our camp. Our tents had been struck that morning. We steamed up to it and saw several thousand men pitching a camp, and many horsemen all round. This proved to be the Sultan's army, and explained the hurried disappearance

of all our people. They have doubtless been carried off inland by the Sousis, unless, which I think doubtful, they have fallen into the hands of the Sultan's troops, in which case they will be handed over to the British Consul at Mogador.

We therefore steamed off to Arrecife, to replenish our stores of coal and water, which were nearly exhausted, taking with us the four Sousis who had remained on board.

I propose returning to the coast in a week's time to reconnoitre, and if the "Hassanee" is still there with the army, to strike the coast further south, and, if I can find a place to land at, endeavour to open up communications with the tribes and recover our men.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. GYBBON-SPILSBURY.

No. 32.

Question asked in the House of Commons, February 10, 1898.

Mr. Gibson Bowles.—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether Her Majesty's Government have any grounds for the belief that the country of Sús, lying to the south of the Atlas Mountains, is claimed by the Sultan of Morocco as forming part of his territory;

Whether, in the country of Sús, authority is and has been from time immemorial exercised by the Chiefs of the tribes inhabiting that country;

Whether the Maroquine Government levies dues and taxes so high as to be prohibitory on all trade that passes across the Atlas Mountains to or from Sús;

Whether the Maroquine Government maintains any resident officers, or levies any taxes in Sús itself, or maintains any troops there otherwise than in periodical raiding expeditions;

Whether considerable numbers of slaves are captured by Maroquines in Sús, and are brought thence into Morocco for sale; and

Whether Her Majesty's Government recognize and are prepared, as regards British subjects, to acquiesce in the right of the Maroquine Government to forbid and to prevent by force all direct trade by sea with any part of Sús, and all trade whatever with that country otherwise than through Morocco and across the Atlas Mountains.

Answer.

Her Majesty's Government are aware that the Sultan of Morocco claims the Sús district as portion of his territory, and Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier recently received an official notification from the Grand Vizier that the inhabitants of the region in question were under the protection and guardianship of the Government of Morocco.

It is probable that the authority exercised in the country is mainly that of the Chiefs, only occasionally controlled by the Central Government.

The duties on trade passing across the Atlas Mountains are understood to be heavy, but they can scarcely be prohibitory.

Concerning the capture of slaves, we have no reports.

Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to contest the claim of the Moorish Government to sovereignty over this territory, which is acknowledged by other Powers, and it follows that British subjects wishing to trade with the inhabitants of the Sús district must first obtain the permission of the Government of Morocco to do so.

It has, however, been, and continues to be, the policy of Her Majesty's Government to advise the Government of Morocco to open trading ports in the region in question.

No. 33.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 6.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture Syndicate.

Tangier, February 11, 1898.

With reference to the above case, I have to inform your Lordship that the attitude of the Grand Vizier with regard to handing over the prisoners does not appear absolutely satisfactory, and I hear privately that difficulties may be raised in the matter. The prisoners had not arrived at the Sultan's camp on 6th February. If your Lordship approves it seems to me desirable to send the Legation interpreter to the Sultan's camp.

No. 34.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 12, 1898.

SINCE the trial of the Sus case may prove complicated, would your Lordship have any objection to the Chief Justice of Gibraltar coming here to try the case, as I think it would be well to have a trained lawyer on the Bench? I could ask him to do so under Morocco Order in Council.

No. 35.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 6.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 12, 1898.

IN view of the circumstances reported in your telegram No. 6 of the 11th instant, I approve your suggestion as to dispatch of the Legation interpreter to the Sultan's camp.

No. 36.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 7, 1898.

THE Attorney-General of Gibraltar, to whom, with your Lordship's sanction, I have intrusted the prosecution of the British subjects who have been seized by the Moorish Government as suspected of being engaged in contraband trade on the Sus coast, has advised me that it would be desirable to obtain legal proof from Antwerp as to the quantity of arms and ammunition shipped on board the "Tourmaline," and I should be much obliged if such proof could be furnished by Her Majesty's Consul-General at that port.

The Captain of the Moorish steamer the "Hassani" is unable to state from personal knowledge how much cargo was landed from the "Tourmaline," but he considers it probable that the two sailors who have been captured will make a full statement of what occurred previous to the arrival of the "Hassani." He stated that he heard them reproaching Mr. Bierle, one of the captives, with having misled them as to the object of the voyage of the "Tourmaline," which they appear to have imagined was merely chartered for a pleasure cruise. Be that as it may, I have requested the Grand Vizier to send here some witnesses who will be able to furnish positive proof of the "Tourmaline" having disembarked contraband and other cargo. There will probably be some delay in procuring the attendance of such witnesses, as the locality where the incidents occurred is so distant.

Acting on the advice of the Attorney-General, warrants have been issued for the arrest of the four individuals captured by the Moorish officials on a charge of smuggling under Act 107 of the Morocco Order in Council, and these warrants will be executed when the men are handed over to the British authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 37.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 6, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to report that the French Minister informed me yesterday that he had received payment of the indemnity of 60,000 fr., which had been demanded of the Moorish Government as compensation to the family of the French sailor who had died while in captivity in the Riff district. M. Monbel added that a certain number of Bocoyans had voluntarily offered themselves for services in the Franco-Algerian army as a mark of sorrow and contrition at the fate which had befallen a French citizen. He was unaware whether his Government would accede to this suggestion, though he himself saw no objection, as there were already a certain number of Moors serving in the Algerian forces.

I learn from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke that it is proposed to enlist about fifty Riffians as a first experiment, and that they will be taken to Algeria on a French steamer which will call at Tetuan. The Governor of Tetuan mentioned the matter to Mr. Bewicke, and appeared somewhat disturbed at this new departure.

Mr. Bewicke has learnt from a Bocoyan, who offered himself for enlistment, that the terms are slightly different from those which I previously reported. Each man is to receive 50 dollars (about 8l.) on engagement for four years, with pay at 2 pesetas (about 1s. 2d.) a week with food. At the end of four years he will receive a bonus of 30 dollars (about 5l.), and may either re-enlist or take his discharge as a French-protected citizen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 38.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 7, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consular officers at Casablanca and Mogador relative to the arrival of the "Tourmaline" at the latter port.

Mr. Johnston may have been in doubt as to how he should act on the arrival of the "Tourmaline," as even if he had felt himself empowered to issue a warrant for Major Spilsbury's arrest, it might have been difficult to execute it on board a vessel in quarantine. At the same time I consider it unfortunate that he paid a visit to the vessel of some duration, the details of which he has not reported to me, as his action may, I fear, be misinterpreted by the Moorish authorities and others.

It now appears that only two of the captives are British subjects.

With regard to the German subject, I propose to hand him over to his own authorities when he arrives in Tangier.

In respect to the Portuguese sailor, I presume he is on the articles of the "Tourmaline," and may therefore be regarded as properly subject to British jurisdiction for acts committed in connection with her voyage.

The Syrian interpreter is said to be under French protection, but as he is stated to have been the purser of the "Tourmaline," he is probably also on the articles, and would presumably come under British jurisdiction.

I have not yet been able to consult with the Attorney-General on these points.

My impression is that it will be found that the "Tourmaline," owing to bad weather and the opportune arrival of the Moorish Government vessel, had not succeeded in discharging much of her cargo.

I have been told that some dissatisfaction was caused among the tribes by the fact of the rifles not being sold on credit, but 9 dollars in cash being demanded for each arm.

[1069]

G

Major Spilsbury's statement that his party were on shore for the innocent purpose of being entertained by the tribes will probably be difficult to support. I have requested the Grand Vizier to send to Tangier trustworthy eye-witnesses of what occurred on and after the arrival of the "Tourmaline" at Arksis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 15.)

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, February 4, 1898.*
I TRANSMIT herewith copy of a despatch received to-day from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston, addressed under flying seal to your Excellency.

It appears that the "Tourmaline" arrived at Mogador on the 30th ultimo, and left the next day. Major Spilsbury, who was on board, reported to Mr. Johnston the detention in Sûs of five Europeans who had gone ashore to be entertained by the Sibonia tribe.

Amongst them were two British subjects, a German, a Portuguese, and a French Syrian [sic].

The "Tourmaline," when at Mogador, was flying, I am informed, a British flag; I think the blue ensign of some yacht club. She was refused pratique, on what appears to be insufficient grounds, by M. Bertrand, French Consul and Acting Sanitary Delegate.

Mr. Johnston, accompanied by a sanitary official and Mr. Ratto, the Mogador friend of the Globe Venture Syndicate, was alongside of the "Tourmaline" for several hours, but, in his despatch, he does not give any further information than what is contained in Major Spilsbury's letter to him. I imagine the letter was written after the Major had learnt from Mr. Johnston's companions that the five Europeans were in the hands of Kaïd Gillooly.

Mr. Johnston is informed that the captives were still south of Tizneet on the 22nd ultimo.

I am told that on the appearance of the "Tourmaline" in Mogador waters the Kaïd of that town placed soldiers and sailors along the beach, as if some danger were threatened, but Mr. Johnston does not report this.

I am further told that Mr. Johnston wrote to his German and Portuguese colleagues informing them that amongst the captives were a German and Portuguese subject.

He has, however, not reported this to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 3.)

Sir, *Mogador, January 31, 1898.*
IN my despatch No. 2 of the 26th instant, I had the honour to report the arrest by Kaïd Gillooly of four or five members of the Globe Venture Syndicate's expedition to Erksees.

Major Spilsbury himself was not captured. He arrived off Mogador yesterday afternoon in the steam-yacht "Tourmaline," direct from the Canaries, whither he had gone from the Sûs coast for coals, &c. Owing to her not bringing a Bill of Health from Assâka, she was refused pratique in the islands, according to a clause on her Bill of Health; and this clause, intelligible enough in the Canary Islands, has been made the ground, by the Acting Sanitary Delegate, M. Bertrand, for an unconditional refusal of pratique here.

Her non-admittance has prevented my learning from Major Spilsbury much that would be of interest about recent events in Sûs. What he has told me (over the

ship's side) confirms in general my report of the 26th instant. In a letter, of which I inclose copy, he states that five of his party were left at Erksees, viz.:—

1. Mr. Last, second officer of the "Tourmaline," presumably a British subject;
2. De Ria, a Portuguese sailor;
3. Myer Sabbah, purser, described as a French subject;
4. Henry Grey, British;
5. A. C. Beyerle, German.

The two latter being guests.

My Sûs Agent, arriving here yesterday, tells me he left Tizneet on the 22nd instant, and on that date the captives were still in the Gillooly's camp somewhere south of Tizneet. To the best of his knowledge they were being well treated, the Kaïd having refused to comply with the wish of some of his officers to "put the Christians in chains."

Seeing that their detention in Sûs may be prolonged until the Sultan's orders reach Kaïd Gillooly, I have caused a letter to be dispatched to that functionary, written by a friend of his and of mine, urging him to see that the prisoners be protected from insult and any needless annoyance, and assuring him that any kindness he may show them will be appreciated by their fellow countrymen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

P.S.—The "Tourmaline" left this port yesterday afternoon, I believe for Las Palmas.

R. L. N. J.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

Major Spilsbury to Vice-Consul Johnston.

Sir,

Steam Yacht "Tourmaline," January 30, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that while five men of my crew were on shore at Erksees, being entertained by the Sbooyea tribe, a large body of the Sultan's troops arrived on the spot. The tribes took to the mountains, and I expect took our party with them, as we have seen no traces of them since. Should they, however, have fallen into the hands of the Sultan's troops and be detained prisoners, I beg to request that you will take the requisite steps to insure their good treatment and speedy release.

The occurrence took place on the 18th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GYBBON SPILSBURY.

Names, &c., of Missing Party.

Mr. Last, second officer, British.
De Ria, A.B., Portuguese.
Myer Sabbah, Purser, Syrian (French subject).
Henry Grey, British } Guests.
A. C. Beyerle, German }

No. 39.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 14, 1898.

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegram No. 7 regarding Major Spilsbury, I am at present in consultation with Attorney-General of Gibraltar as to best means of taking proceedings against him, should he come within the jurisdiction of the Court of Morocco.

Since leaving Mogador, no information has reached me as to his movements.

No. 40.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture.

I have received your telegram No. 7 of the 12th instant.

It is, in my opinion, very desirable that the prisoners should, if possible, be tried by the Chief Justice of Gibraltar.

Should not proceedings be taken against Major Spilsbury if he comes within the jurisdiction of the Court for Morocco?

Foreign Office, February 14, 1898, 1 P.M.

No. 41.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 15, 1898.

ACCORDING to a telegram from the British Vice-Consul at Las Palmas the "Tourmaline" sailed thence on the 13th instant without disclosing whither she was bound.

No. 42.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord,

Brussels, February 15, 1898.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 11 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith, in original, a despatch and its inclosure, which I have received to-day from Mr. Consul-General Perry, giving evidence which he has been able to procure in regard to arms, &c., shipped at Antwerp on board the British yacht "Tourmaline."

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Consul-General Perry to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 5.)

Sir,

Antwerp, February 14, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 2 of the 8th instant, and of the several inclosures annexed thereto, relative to the proceedings at Antwerp of the yacht "Tourmaline," in the month of December, 1897, and instructing me to procure, without loss of time, evidence, for the use of the Attorney-General at Gibraltar, as to the shipment of arms, ammunition, &c., on board the "Tourmaline," together with full details respecting their quantity and value. Immediately on receipt of your despatch I made efforts to obtain the information required from what I thought would be a sure quarter, but the person I spoke to was disinclined to move in the matter. Being somewhat perplexed in which direction to turn to obtain the information desired, I addressed myself to the chief of the custom-house here, with whom I am fortunately on friendly terms, and I am happy to say that that official has most kindly furnished me with a declaration, drawn up by the

Controller of Customs stationed at the South Quay, giving full particulars regarding the munitions of war shipped on board the yacht referred to. This document and the Director's letter, duly certified by myself, I now have the honour to inclose, and trust that it may fulfil the requirements set forth in the paraphrase of Sir Arthur Nicolson's telegram of the 3rd instant (No. 4).

It will be noticed that the number of rifles does not tally with the figures mentioned in my despatch to you, No. 48 of the 14th December, 1897, and that the value at which they (the rifles) were estimated by the sellers or shippers must be far below the real value of the arms.

I should further state that I have now learned from another source that three or four quick-firing guns were stowed away on board the "Tourmaline" when she left Antwerp.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. R. DE COURCY PERRY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Memorandum as to the Cargo of "Tourmaline."

500 caisses renfermant 500,000 cartouches de guerre expédiées de Swichow (Autriche) sous le couvert des acquits de transit sommaire délivrés au Bureau de Lanacken le 22 Septembre dernier, sous les Nos. 12910, 12911, et 12912, pour un poids brut de 27,849 kilog., mais sans indication de valeur.

2. Quarante-quatre balles tissus de coton blanchis importées de l'Angleterre par le steamer Anglais "Huddersfield," reprises à la déclaration de libre transit validée au 3^e Bureau le 30 Novembre, 1897, sous le No. 91033, pour un poids brut de 7,000 kilog., et pour une valeur de 7,000 fr.3. 3,560 fusils repris à la déclaration de libre sortie validée au 3^e Bureau le 14 Décembre, 1897, sous le No. 20816, pour un poids net de 10,000 kilog. et une valeur de 30,000 fr.4. Onze caisses thé reprises à la déclaration de libre transit validée au 1^{er} Bureau le 9 Décembre, 1897, sous le No. 33937, pour un poids brut de 400 kilog.5. Deux caisses tabacs fabriqués autres reprises à la déclaration de libre transit validée au 2^e Bureau le 13 Décembre, 1897, sous le No. 8269, pour un poids brut de 24 kilog.6. Un paquet habillements repris à la déclaration de libre transit validée au 4^e Bureau le 7 Décembre, 1897, sous le No. 4572, pour un poids, &c.

No. 43.

Foreign Office to War Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 18, 1898.

WITH reference to the papers now before the War Office, respecting the expedition which the Globe Venture Syndicate has dispatched to the Sûs districts of Morocco, under the command of Major A. Gybbon-Spilsbury, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you copies of further correspondence which has passed on this subject.*

It will be seen from the inclosures to this letter that it is intended to bring those members of the expedition who have been already captured by the Moorish authorities before Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Court for Morocco, and that proceedings are also contemplated against Major Spilsbury should he come within the jurisdiction of the Court.

It appears that this officer—who it is believed holds a commission in the Thames Militia Division of Royal Engineers—fired on the officials of the Sultan of Morocco in

* Nos. 19, 20, 22*, 23, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, and 44.

his territorial waters while these officials were discharging their lawful duty, and it is thought that the Marquess of Lansdowne may desire to take official notice of this grave and apparently unjustifiable proceeding on the part of an officer holding the Queen's commission, against the officials of a Sovereign in amity with Her Majesty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 44.

*Foreign Office to Globe Venture Syndicate.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 18, 1898.*
I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, relating to the expedition dispatched by your Syndicate to the Sûs districts of Morocco, under the command of Major A. Gybbon-Spilsbury.

In reply to your request with regard to its members who have been captured by the authorities of the Government of Morocco, I am to state that Her Majesty's Government cannot intervene with regard to any judicial proceedings which may be pending before Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Court for Morocco, but that if the persons referred to in your letter are charged before that Court they will presumably be treated in all respects like other persons in a similar position.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 45.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury — (Received February 22.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 10, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report that the project of recruiting Riffians for service in the Algerian forces has received an unexpected check, owing to the majority of the Bocoyan tribe threatening to burn the houses and capture the families of those who had enlisted if these latter did not immediately return to their homes. This menace had the effect of inducing thirty-six out of the forty recruits to return to the Riff territory; and the French Consular Agent has arrived with only four men.

It appears that the scheme for enlistment in the Algerian forces has not, for some reason, found favour either among the Bocoyans or the other Riff tribes. Most people considered that it would be very successful, especially as there is much misery in the Riff, owing to a bad harvest last year; but an agitation had begun to develop in the Riff territory against the project, and messengers were passing from tribe to tribe inciting the people to refuse any terms which might be offered to them. It is possible that the French Agent was not skilful in his propaganda; and it is also said that a High Sheriff, to whom the French Minister recently presented a cloak of honour, pronounced himself adverse to the scheme, as by an unfortunate coincidence a favourite nephew of his died suddenly on the day on which he received this mark of favour. This saintly personage, therefore, considered that Divine wrath had visited him on account of his having entered into friendly relations with a Christian Representative.

The Spanish Minister, whose information agrees with that which I have received, said that he was surprised at the failure of the negotiations, as the Spanish authorities received always many more applications than they could accept for service in the small detachment of Riffians who were enrolled in the Ceuta garrison.

It seems evident that French influence in Riff territory is, for the moment at any rate, not so preponderant as was believed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

* Also to Sir A. Nicolson and War Office.

No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury. — (Received February 19.)

(No. 21.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 11, 1898.

I RECEIVED private letters from the Sultan's camp to-day, dated up to the 7th instant, and from these I gathered that the Grand Vizier was inclined to detain the prisoners who had been arrested at Arksis, under the impression, I am told, that Her Majesty's Government, in refusing to countenance and support the expedition of the Globe Venture Syndicate, had withdrawn protection from those engaged in that venture. This attitude of the Grand Vizier will not, I trust, be maintained. On the 29th December last I addressed a note to his Excellency, copy of which was inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 173 of the same date, requesting that, if any British subject were apprehended, he should be delivered unharmed to the nearest Consular authority. On the 31st January, when I heard of the arrest of some of Major Spilsbury's party, I dispatched an express courier to his Excellency with a note, copy of which I beg leave to transmit to your Lordship.

Both these communications must have been in the hands of his Excellency before the dispatch of the letter which I have just received, and I am surprised to hear that he hesitates to surrender the prisoners. These latter had not arrived at the Sultan's camp on the 7th February, a period of nineteen days having elapsed since their capture. I presume Kaïd Gilooly is dispatching them by slow marches, and I have written to the Court requesting that their arrival should be hastened, as, although I do not anticipate that they are being subjected to any ill-treatment, still, a lengthy march with Moorish surroundings and Moorish food is not conducive to the well-being of those who are probably unaccustomed to such a mode of life.

I conveyed some days ago to the Grand Vizier the information that the prisoners would be prosecuted before the British Consular Court for smuggling or attempting to smuggle. In the circumstances, it seems to me very desirable that I should send Mr. Irwin, Interpreter to this Legation, to the Sultan's camp, so that he may be able to explain verbally to the Grand Vizier the situation in all its bearings, and also to insist on the prisoners being sent without delay to Tangier. A personal visit from an official from this Legation will have a speedier effect than a written correspondence. I would instruct Mr. Irwin to explain very fully the action which the British authorities intend to take, so as to satisfy his Excellency that, in requiring, as is laid down by Treaty, that British subjects should be tried by their own Courts, there is no desire to improperly evade the demands of justice, or, if an offence be proved, to suffer the offenders to escape with impunity. It is essential, I submit, that the action of the British authorities should not be misinterpreted or misunderstood, and also I am anxious to spare the prisoners any unnecessary hardships.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, 8th Ramadan, 1315 (January 31, 1898).

I HAVE received information that Kaïd Gilooly has captured five of the party of Major Spilsbury, in regard to whose proceedings I gave warning to your Excellency on the 4th Shaaban, 1315 (29th December, 1897), and that he intends to send those five persons to the camp of the Sultan (compliments). I have no doubt that the prisoners will be treated kindly, and I request your Excellency to send them without delay to me here, when they will be dealt with according as the circumstances may demand, and may you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 47.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 15, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Mogador, reporting that he has been informed that the prisoners in the hands of Kaïd Guilooley are being ill-treated.

I trust that this information, if not ill-founded, is at least exaggerated. The Captain of the "Hassanni" told me that, before leaving Arkis, he had expressed to Kaïd Guilooley the hope that the prisoners would be well treated, and he had received satisfactory assurances in reply. Moreover, Kaïd Guilooley had permitted Captain Siebert to send ashore, for the use of the prisoners, some tinned provisions and cigars.

I have several times conveyed to the Grand Vizier the request that the prisoners should suffer no harsh treatment; and his Excellency recently assured Kaïd Maclean that letters had been sent to Kaïd Guilooley to take great care of the prisoners, and supply them with all the provisions they required, and with beds, clothes, tents, and good mules for the journey.

Although I am inclined to doubt that any severity has been shown to the prisoners, I have instructed Mr. Irwin to bring the matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier, and request renewed orders to Kaïd Guilooley.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Mogador, February 6, 1898.

A RESPECTABLE Moorish trader, who arrived to-day from Esbonya, tells me that on Wednesday, the 26th ultimo, he was in Kaïd Guilooley's camp near Erksees. The Governor himself was installed in a house. The four European prisoners who landed from the "Tourmaline," were confined with their Jewish interpreter in a room with about ten prisoners of the tribe of Esbonya. All were in irons, but he was told the neck irons of the Europeans were removed at night.

They begged my informant to report their condition to me. He thought the food supplied to them was insufficient, and went to Kaïd Guilooley to urge him to show them all the kindness in his power. It would appear from this statement, which I have no reason to doubt, that Kaïd Guilooley is treating the Europeans almost as harshly as Moorish political prisoners would be dealt with.

I have therefore thought it desirable to address Kaïd Ali-bel-Haj a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose translation and copy, requesting him to ask Kaïd Guilooley to see that they receive all the attention due to the subjects of a friendly Power, and to remind him that if he has any complaint about them they can only lawfully be punished by their own nation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Kaïd Ali-bel-Haj.

(After salutations.)

Mogador, February 6, 1898.

IT has come to my knowledge that certain Europeans, including two Englishmen, landed at Erksees recently and were captured by Kaïd Saïd-el-Guilooley. I have been waiting for some days expecting that the said Governor would inform me, through you, of his reasons for imprisoning them, and stating whether he proposed intended sending them to some sea-port where there was a British Consul. As no such notice has been given

by Kaïd Guilooley, it is my duty to ask you to inform him, in writing, that I have communicated to our Minister the fact of their arrest having taken place nineteen days ago. I would also ask Kaïd Guilooley to see that they are treated with the attention due to subjects of a Power so friendly to the Sultan as England has ever been. If he incurs any expense in providing them with food and suitable attendants, I have no doubt that they or their friends are able to repay any outlay he may make on their arrival at this or other sea-port. I would ask you strongly to impress upon Kaïd Guilooley this fact, that if any one has any complaint to make about them, their own nation is the only Power that can lawfully punish them, and that until they reach the hands of their own authorities they should be treated with kindness. I inclose a letter for the English prisoners, which please transmit inside yours.

Peace.

(Signed) R. J. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 5.)

Sir,

Mogador, February 8, 1898.

SINCE closing my despatch No. 4 of the 6th instant, I have received a reply from Kaïd Ali-bel-Haj to my letter of that date, in which I requested him to communicate with Kaïd-el-Guilooley, urging upon the latter functionary to afford the European prisoners all reasonable comfort. Kaïd Ali does not see the necessity of this step, feeling convinced that Kaïd Guilooley is too wise a man to fail in his duty in this respect.

The report from a most reliable source of the European prisoners being in chains compels me, very unwillingly, to differ from Kaïd Ali; but as his health is in so serious a condition as to preclude any discussion with him, I have again caused a friendly letter to be addressed to Kaïd-el-Guilooley, from a mutual friend, asking him in my name to see that the European prisoners are well treated; and to hand to the British subjects a letter, in which I have authorized them, if necessary, to draw upon me for a small amount to pay any necessary expenses. I inclose a copy of my letter to the British prisoners, and translation and copy of Haj Ali's reply to mine of the 6th instant.

I should add that, both before and since the arrival of Major Spilsbury at Erksees, I have lost no opportunity of letting everyone concerned know of the warning conveyed by Her Majesty's Government to the Globe Venture Syndicate against their expedition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 47.

Kaïd Ali-bel-Haj to Vice-Consul Johnston.

(Translation.)

(After salutations and recapitulation.)

15 Ramadan, 1315 (February 7, 1898).

YOU will know that on the "Hassanni's" arrival news came of what had happened as you state, that they (the European prisoners) were arrested by the Governor of Sus, who secured them from danger, and I dispatched the information to our Master, reporting the circumstances from the arrival of the Company's steamer at the port of Erksees, and without doubt a reply will arrive to-night or to-morrow.

Kaïd Guilooley intended to send them at once, but feared something might happen to them on the road, and therefore kept them under his hand, and reported to our Master; and his reply must also soon arrive. I also reported the occurrence to His Majesty's Representative (at Tangier). As to my writing to the Guilooley, Governor of Sus, no place or time remains, as I await our Master's reply morning or evening. Moreover, the Governor in question is of the wise ones, and could not do anything contrary to regulations, such as inflicting punishment or the like, and in any case you may rest tranquil on their account, and when the steamer arrives with either of these replies, I will inform you whether my writing to the Governor of Sus, after what has been mentioned, will be desirable or not. Also, as to the letter you ask to send to them through me, better postpone doing so in case it may not be the correct course.

(Signed) ALI-BEL-HAJ.

Inclosure 5 in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Johnston to the British Prisoners at Erksees..

Gentlemen,

Mogador, February 6, 1898.

I HAVE been informed that two British subjects, Mr. Henry Grey and Mr. Last, have been arrested by Kaid-el-Guilooly during the recent visit of the steamer "Tourmaline."

The arrest has been reported to me by Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

I received from you to-day a message by a Moorish trader, and in consequence thereof am causing a letter to be addressed to Kaid-el-Guilooly by the Governor of this town, inviting him to afford you the best treatment in his power until such time as you may be conveyed, as seems likely, to this or some other sea-port. This letter will be conveyed by special courier.

I have informed the German and Portuguese authorities that to the best of my knowledge, a German gentleman, M. Beyerle, and a Portuguese sailor named Da Ria, are with you.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

P.S.—If you can negotiate a draft upon me to 50 dollars for your necessary expenses it will be honoured.

R. L. N. J.

No. 48.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 15.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 21, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 13 of the 31st ultimo, reporting the recent arrest and imprisonment by Provincial Governors and other Moorish officials of certain British-protected persons and British Commercial Agents.

You are authorized to inform the Moorish Government that Her Majesty's Government have heard with regret of these proceedings, and that they must insist on proper inquiry and redress.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 49.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 22, 1898.

GLOBE Venture case.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 17th instant the prisoners were near Mogador, and that they were being well treated and well fed.

No. 50.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 16.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 23, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 21 of the 11th instant, and I approve the note which you addressed to the Grand Vizier on the 31st ultimo with regard to the members of the Globe Venture Syndicate expedition, now in the hands of the Moorish authorities.

The other measures which you have adopted on behalf of the prisoners are also approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 51.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 17.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 23, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 22 of the 15th instant, relating to the reported ill-treatment of the members of the Globe Venture Syndicate expedition now in the hands of the Moorish authorities, and I approve of your having instructed Mr. Irwin to bring this matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 52.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 20, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that the French Vice-Consulate at Fez has been raised to the rank of a Consulate, and that M. Malpertui, formerly interpreter to the French Legation here, has been appointed to that post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 53.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 2, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of the "Tourmaline" at Gibraltar with Major Spilsbury on board. I would propose to execute warrant for his arrest on charges under Articles 107 and 108 of Morocco Order in Council should he arrive here.

No. 54.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 3, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Syndicate: Your telegram No. 10 of the 2nd instant. I approve what you propose.

No. 55.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 23, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 148 of the 7th November last, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston relative to the withdrawal of a semsar's certificate from Mr. Elias Hatchwell. In the circumstances, and should Mr. Attal desire it, I would propose now to renew the certificate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S. February 25th, 1898.—Since writing the above, I have received your Lordship's despatch No. 10 of the 7th instant. I regret the delay which has occurred, but I was awaiting a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston which reached me only quite

recently. In view of the statement in the concluding paragraph of Mr. Johnston's despatch No. 7, that Elias Hatchwell probably did not regard Mbark as a slave, and was ignorant of the laws affecting slave labour, and that a sufficient warning has been given to Hatchwell, I would, with your Lordship's permission, instruct Mr. Johnston to renew the semsar's certificate, formerly withdrawn.

A. N.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Mogador, February 15, 1898.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 17 of the 7th November last on the subject of Mr. Elias Hatchwell's freed slave, I have the honour to state that, owing to the serious and prolonged illness of the Kaïd Ali-bel-Haj, all but the most pressing matters requiring his intervention have been perforce held in abeyance.

I fear that even with his co-operation it will be impossible to secure, for the lad Mbark, manumission papers drawn up by Moorish notaries, until such time as the heirs of the original Moorish owner make their appearance, if indeed they ever do so. It appears that Moslem law does not recognize the right of a Jew to free a slave any more than to hold one. As nearly as I can gather, the Soudanese trader alluded to by the Moorish workman, Se-el-Haj, must have been Ben Souda, a deceased Ameen, who was in the habit of trading in Sûs, and died heavily indebted to the Hatchwells and other local traders.

I am happy to be able to state that the boy is now earning his living as porter to a respectable British trader in Mogador. As a partial means of securing him from interference I gave him on the 21st May last, a certificate stating that upon the declaration of his sometime employer (Hatchwell), and to the best of my own knowledge he is a freed slave.

Both Hazzan Leahohana and Elias Hatchwell having been absent for many months from Mogador, I have been prevented making any further inquiries from either of them in the sense your Excellency directs.

On the main point of the lad's security from interference, whether from the heirs of the original owner, or from the Brothers Hatchwell, or from Hazzan Leahohana, I am fully satisfied.

The Brazilian Vice-Consul has assured me of his co-operation in protecting him from any claim of ownership that might be put forward by the Brazilian protégé Hatchwell, brother of Elias Hatchwell; and in the unlikely event of his being claimed by heirs of the original Moorish owner, Ben Souda, I foresee no difficulty in our making the Hatchwells jointly responsible for his continuing in freedom.

With reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 8 of the 29th May, containing, among other remarks, directions that I should acquaint Mr. Attal of Manchester with the withdrawal of Elias Hatchwell's certificate, I took it that as the 1896 certificate had not been renewed (a fact which had evidently not come to Mr. White's knowledge) it could not be withdrawn in 1897, and that under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires would probably approve my not acting upon the letter of his instructions.

With regard to the last paragraph of your Excellency's despatch No. 17 of the 7th November, I can only account for the non-recovery of Elias Hatchwell's certificate until June 1897, on the supposition that he was absent from Mogador earlier in the year, as he is now. I have, nevertheless, to express my regret that no record was kept here of the reason for this oversight.

So far as Elias Hatchwell is concerned, I am happy to think that any action in relation to the sometime slave Mbark, has had the desired effect of deterring other British protected persons from slave holding, and I am disposed to believe that at the time Mbark was employed in his house, he may not have recorded him as a slave, as he was certainly ignorant of the laws affecting employment of slave labour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

No. 56.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 27, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston regarding the arrival of the "Tourmaline" at Mogador, and explaining the circumstances of the visit which he paid to that vessel. I also beg leave to transmit copy of my despatch to Mr. Johnston to which his above-mentioned communication is a reply.

I regret to report that the prisoners are still detained near Mogador, but I trust that I shall shortly hear from Mr. Truin, who will reach the Sultan's camp early to-morrow morning, that orders have been sent for their immediate dispatch to Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 8.)

Sir,

Mogador, February 18, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 8 of the 9th instant, dealing with the illicit transactions in which Major Spilsbury and the steamer "Tourmaline" are suspected of having been engaged on the Ait Boamran coast; and I have noted with special attention your Excellency's remarks as to the measures which are being adopted to bring the accused parties to justice.

With regard to the visit of the "Tourmaline," my health requiring me to be a good deal on the sea, I happened to be going on board the British steamer "Tetuan" in the agent's boat and as a guest of the Captain, just as the stranger yacht was coming into the bay. To discover her name we pulled nearly alongside, to learn from the deputy pratique master that she was the "Tourmaline," and that as she brought a foul bill of health from the Canaries, she would probably be refused pratique. I requested the acting pratique master to suggest from me to M. Bertrand, the Acting Sanitary Delegate, that the circumstances of the case might be met by her undergoing a nominal observation. It occurred to me that if the Moorish authorities made an application for Major Spilsbury's arrest, it might be my duty to serve a warrant upon him, but that to do this in the face of a refusal of pratique from the sanitary delegate would place me in a very illogical position. The master of the yacht asked me to use my good offices to obtain pratique, and just as we were pulling off to the "Tetuan" Major Spilsbury came on deck from below. He handed in to the pratique boat his letter of the 30th January which was passed on to me, and of which I transmitted a copy in my No. 3 of the 31st January, and then told me he was anxious to get news of his friends, who had disappeared in or near Assaka. I replied that they were alive, and to the best of my knowledge in good hands; and further expressed a hope that he would not leave until I had done all in my power to get pratique for the yacht.

This very short conversation, which was in French, ended the interview, to the best of my recollection, so far as I was concerned. There was a heavy sea running at the time, and amid the confused mixture of Arabic, Spanish, and English being talked all at once, further parley would have been out of the question.

On the following day I was on board the "Tetuan," just before she sailed. The only boat available to come ashore in was the agent's, which had been temporarily engaged as a pratique boat to pass over to the "Tourmaline," to settle accounts, hand up provisions, and to give a final reply refusing her pratique. In taking a place in this boat I did not anticipate three minutes' detention near the yacht, but owing to a hitch in the arrangements for landing the pilot under strict Quarantine Regulations, I was kept in her neighbourhood for more than an hour, a very inconvenient loss of time. I took no notes of the various conversations that were going on, which had to do for the most part with anything rather than the recent history of the "Tourmaline," consisting mainly of inquiries about many people whose acquaintance Major Spilsbury had made in Mogador in June last.

I believe I told Spilsbury that it was rumoured he had fired on the "Hassaunee," and I am quite sure he denied having fired a shot at her, or her boats, or indeed at any one. He admitted having "bluffed" her, when she attempted to board or run him down. I gathered most of the alleged details of this "bluffing" incident from other sources, purely hearsay, but have no doubt of their correctness in the main. He exhibited a cartridge about 9 inches long and 1½ broad, which I understood belonged to a quick-firing gun aft. He or some other person on board showed some photographs taken at Erksees. I think that some reference was made to his having four or five Moors on board, invisible, whom he wished to put ashore. They were certainly not landed anywhere near this port, but an unconfirmed rumour has reached me to the effect that they have since been landed on the Sûs coast, which appears likely.

I fully appreciate the weight of your Excellency's observations on the possibility of the motives of my presence alongside the "Tourmaline" being misinterpreted by the Moorish authorities. I took, indeed, the earliest opportunity of calling upon Kaïd Ali-bel-Haj with the object of removing any false impression, of which, I am happy to say, I did not find the least suggestion in his words or manner. I availed myself of the occasion to point out some of the circumstances which, in my opinion, had tied my hands so far as an attempt to arrest Spilsbury and detain the steamer was concerned. One of these circumstances is the fact that not only have the Moorish authorities made no complaint or application to me respecting Spilsbury, but they had never even referred to the subject in any communication with me. I laid some stress, too, upon the absolute decision of the Acting Sanitary Delegate to refuse the vessel pratique, which step, Kaïd Ali agreed, formed in itself a formidable obstacle to any action either at my initiative or that of the local Moorish authorities. I, moreover, told Kaïd Ali that in the fuller light of instructions, which I had received since the "Tourmaline's" departure, I should now—in the not very improbable event of her return—feel myself justified in taking a much stronger position, and might ask him, other measures failing, to detain the vessel, if necessary, by force.

With regard to the British prisoners in Kaïd-el-Guilooly's hands, I thought it best to inform him that, as my instructions stood, I trusted they would be conveyed on to Tangier, with a suitable escort. I added, as a personal opinion, that they should be allowed all the comfort which the necessary fatigue of a long journey suggested as reasonable for persons who, though accused of an offence, were not yet proved guilty. I also remarked that if they came to Mogador it would be well for me to see them, and take down any statement they might wish to make after due caution. To this he foresaw no obstacle.

I further told him that if he wished me to take down any affidavits of persons who witnessed the alleged acts of smuggling I was quite prepared to do so.

As regards the present condition of the prisoners, I have every reason to believe that they are lodged at or near Kaïd-el-Guilooly's Kasbah, some forty odd miles south of Mogador, and that they are being well treated by the Khaleefa. He, indeed, quite recently wrote to my own cashier requesting him to send out some clothes for them, for which the Khaleefa himself proposed to pay. The garments were sent this morning, but not charged to the Khaleefa.

From what I gather they are being detained in Eda Guilool until the return of the "Hassaunee" with further Royal orders, which may be to have them conveyed by sea to Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

Sir A. Nicolson to Vice-Consul Johnston.

(No. 3.)
Sir,

Tangier, February 9, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 31st ultimo, I am given to understand that you had a somewhat lengthy conversation with Major Spilsbury when the "Tourmaline" was at Mogador. You are doubtless aware that the "Tourmaline" is suspected of having been engaged in an illicit trade on the coast of the territory of His Shereefian Majesty; and is also reported to have made a hostile demonstration against a vessel of the Sultan of Morocco and her boats in the territorial waters of His Majesty.

The above action would constitute grave offences against Treaty stipulations, and would render the offenders liable to prosecution. In fact, measures are in progress for

instituting proceedings against those who have been captured by the Moorish authorities; and in these circumstances, although you may have been in doubt whether you were authorized to take steps for detaining Major Spilsbury or his vessel, I fear the fact of your having paid a visit of some duration to the "Tourmaline" may be open to some misinterpretation on the part of the Moorish authorities and others.

If you have taken notes of the conversation which you had with Major Spilsbury, I should be glad if you would furnish me with a full report as to what passed on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 57.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 9, 1898

ON Monday next a question will be asked in the House of Commons as to whether sales of slaves still take place openly at Saffi, and whether there was a greater number of such sales last year than during any preceding year since the Moorish Government gave the undertaking on the subject to the late Sir John Drummond Hay.

A reply is requested by telegraph.

No. 58.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 10, 1898.

REFERENCE your Lordship's telegram No. 10.

I have to report that neither at Saffi nor elsewhere has any case of public sale of slaves been notified to me; and the Consuls are instructed, if any cases come to their knowledge, to report to me, and I am reminding them of these instructions. As to orders issued by the Governor of Saffi, I would refer to my despatch No. 140 of the 14th December, 1896. Any case which might have occurred in 1897 would therefore, presumably, have been reported to me.

No. 59.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 11, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case.

I have received letter from Legation Interpreter, dated the 3rd instant; he reports that in an interview with the Grand Vizier he impressed upon him the necessity of sending the prisoners here without delay. Grand Vizier gave no definite answer, and asked for a written request which might be submitted to the Sultan. The Grand Vizier, although very friendly, pointed out that the offence committed by the Syndicate was a very grave one, and was felt by the Moorish Government the more deeply in that it had been perpetrated by subjects of a nation with whom such friendly relations existed.

No. 60.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture Case.

Tangier, March 13, 1898.

With reference to my telegram No. 12, I have received letters from the Legation Interpreter, dated the 9th instant, stating that he has as yet been unable to obtain answers to requests to forward prisoners here. The Sultan's camp is now on the march to Morocco City and he is still there pressing for replies. I am addressing further communications to the Grand Vizier insisting that the prisoners should be sent here immediately.

No. 61.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 27.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 2, 1898.

I HAVE received despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, reporting that a party of twenty-five Riffians of the Bocoya tribe embarked, on the 28th ultimo, on the British felucca "Angelito" for Oran, having taken service in the Franco-Algerian army. Reports have reached me from other sources that the Bocoyans have burnt the house and destroyed the property of a certain Ci-Dadi, a French protégé, who was the principal agent in procuring the recruits. The French Minister told me that he had endeavoured to dissuade these men from leaving, but the French Consular Agent at Tetuan must have been of a different mind, as he hired the felucca for a considerable sum, and was active in engaging the men and in assisting their departure.

Mr. Bewicke reports, also, that of late there have been certain disturbances in Tetuan owing to the influx of Riffians into that town, and that the Governor has been compelled to order the arrest of all Riffians without distinction, although several claimed to be under French protection. There is much misery in the Riff district, which forces the mountaineers to come to Tetuan to seek work, which is difficult to obtain.

Reports continue to assert that the Bocoyans intend to punish those who have entered the French service by destroying their property, but it is possible these threats will not be executed, and that, if encouraged, more Riffians will follow the example of those who have left.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 62.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 28.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 3, 1898.

I RECEIVED a telegram on the 1st instant from Major Spilsbury, dated Gibraltar, inquiring whether his party, who had been made prisoners by the Moorish authorities, had been released. I did not reply to the telegram, and I learned subsequently from Gibraltar that the "Tourmaline" was in port, and that Major Spilsbury had called on the Attorney-General. The latter declined to discuss any question relating to the recent incidents on the Sus coast, and referred Major Spilsbury to me for any information which he might desire. I have received no further communication from Major Spilsbury, and as he is probably aware that a prosecution is pending, it is unlikely that he will come here. In the event of his arriving at Tangier I propose to execute the warrant which has been issued, and request the Chief Justice to proceed here.

The Spanish Minister has communicated to me a telegram which he received from the Governor of the Canaries that the "Tourmaline" had arrived in Arecife, and had left again on the 23rd ultimo; that she had succeeded in disembarking some of her cargo on the coast of Morocco, but that the greater part of the arms was still on board.

As the Vice-Consul at Las Palmas reported that the "Tourmaline" had left the Canaries on the 13th ultimo for an unknown destination, it is possible that she paid another visit between that date and the 23rd to the Sus coast. It is probable that she is desirous of disposing of the remainder of her cargo, but after what has occurred I do not think she would be able to effect this at any point in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 63.

Mr. W. Hazell, M.P., to Foreign Office.—(Received March 14.)

Dear Sir,

9, Russell Square, London, W.C., March 11, 1898.

IN the draft of the question which I am to ask you on Monday as to slavery in Morocco, I referred to the "Times" of the 6th December, 1897, but the clerks cut out the mention of the newspaper as being irregular. I, however, think it better to send you a copy of the paragraph to which I specially referred.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. HAZELL.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Extract from the "Times" of December 6, 1897.

SALE OF SLAVES IN MOROCCO.—A Reuter despatch from Tangier, dated the 30th ultimo, says that Saffi at present enjoys the unenviable reputation of being the only town on the Moorish coast in which Europeans reside where the public sale of slaves take place, and it is a town in which the trade has been forbidden—at the request of a British Minister—by the Sultan's Decree. This is unquestionably owing to the patronage, in spite of the Sultan's orders, which the traffic receives from the highest to the lowest of the Government officials. In fact, these personages, and a few of the wealthier Moors, are the only people able to pay for slaves in the present depressed state of the country. The British Vice-Consul has done his best to put a stop to the nefarious traffic by refusing to renew the certificates of Semsars or Mohalatas who possess or are suspected of being the owners of slaves, but his efforts are generally ineffectual, as the natives easily manage to evade this law by making out the papers of ownership in the name of one of their relatives. The Saffi correspondent of "La Cronica" has kept an account of the slaves sold or offered for sale during the months of August, September, and October. He says:—

"Black merchandize has been rather scarce this summer, no doubt owing to the rebellion in Sus, where the greater part comes from. Another reason is that buyers are not over anxious to purchase in these hard times and with the present high price of food. From the 6th to the 8th August a woman and three children were hawked about the streets by the public auctioneer to the following cries: '40 dollars, less 1, for the woman; 25 dollars for the eldest girl; 22 dollars for the other.' No offer has yet been made for the little boy. On inquiry a few days afterwards I was informed that they reached the sum of 200 dollars, but in this lot was included the father, who had not been paraded with his family. On the 25th a girl 8 years old was disposed of for 23 dollars. The mother, on learning that she had been robbed of her daughter, remonstrated with her master, who refused to entertain her demand for her child's return. She then went to a Shereef, who gave her the money to repurchase her daughter, which she was able to accomplish on the payment of 35 dollars—12 dollars more than was paid. On the 21st September a man, his wife, and child, were sold for 80 dollars. On the 8th October a woman and her two children, one at the breast, and the other about 8 years old, and two other girls and a boy, were offered. Separate bids were made for this lot, the total for the six amounting to 210 dollars.

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"October 12.—A slave changed masters for the sum of 65 dollars.

"October 27.—Another sale took place publicly of a negress and her two sons, one at the breast and the other 6 years old. These were finally sold for 55 dollars. At the commencement several offers were made for the eldest boy alone, one man offering 20 dollars for him, but the owner refused to part with his human chattel for less than 25 dollars, so, for a question of 5 dollars, the boy was not torn from his mother. It is to be hoped that this letter will be read in the Tangier Legations, and that the worthy Representatives of cultured Europe who are accredited to the Moorish Court will be pleased to do something to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate coloured race in Morocco."

No. 64.

Question asked in the House of Commons, March 14, 1898.

Mr Hazell,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the open sale of slaves takes place in Saffi, a coast town of Morocco, contrary to the undertaking given by the Moorish Government to the late Sir John Drummond Hay:

Whether such sales have occurred more frequently in 1897 than in any previous year since this arrangement was entered into:

And, whether Her Majesty's Government will use their influence with the Sultan of Morocco to the end that this undertaking may be adhered to?

Answer.

Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has telegraphed, in reply to an inquiry addressed to him, that no public sale of slaves had been reported to him from Saffi or elsewhere in Morocco. Her Majesty's Consular officers have standing instructions to report any case which may come to their knowledge, and if any sale had occurred at Saffi during 1897 it would have been reported at Tangier.

An attempt at a public sale of slaves at Saffi in 1896 was stopped on the representation of the British Vice-Consul, and the auctioneer was imprisoned. The Governor of Saffi issued orders on that occasion prohibiting the public sale of slaves.

Her Majesty's Government lose no opportunity of pressing their views upon the Moorish Government.

I may add that, the honourable Member having kindly sent to me an extract from the press upon which his inquiries were based, I have called the attention of Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier to the statements in question, and have instructed him to inquire and report thereon.

No. 64*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 14, 1898, 2:30 P.M.

PLEASE inquire and report upon the allegations respecting the sale of slaves at Saffi which appeared in the "Times" of 6th December last; they form the basis of the question to be asked to-day in the House of Commons.

No. 65.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 15, 1898.

SLAVERY at Saffi.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 11:

The accounts which appeared in the press as to sale of slaves at Saffi I am sending to the Vice-Consul at that place, and repeating my instructions for a full Report on the subject.

No. 66.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 15, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that in the course of last year a Syndicate was formed, entitled the "Globe Venture Syndicate," the alleged object of which was the opening up of trade with Chiefs in the Sus district of Morocco, from whom the Syndicate stated that they had obtained certain trading and mining monopolies.

Rumours of these proceedings having reached the Moorish Government, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier received from the Grand Vizier an official notification that the inhabitants of the regions in question were under the protection and guardianship of the Government of Morocco, and that the Syndicate had, therefore, no authority to make any such agreements as were reported, without the Sultan's sanction, which in the present case had not been given.

By the direction of the Secretary of State a letter was consequently addressed to the Syndicate on the 20th October, 1897, copy of which is inclosed,* warning them that Her Majesty's Government would not countenance or support their enterprise unless and until it should receive the sanction of the Moorish Government.

In spite of this communication the Syndicate proceeded with their preparations, and Major Spilsbury, their agent, shipped arms and ammunition at Antwerp on board of the yacht "Tourmaline."

A statement of the cargo which is believed to have been on board of this vessel is annexed.*

These munitions were then conveyed to the coast of Morocco, but the vigilance of the authorities of the Government of Morocco prevented more than a small portion being landed, and they are believed to be still on board the "Tourmaline" at Gibraltar.

As it is undesirable that the arms should come into the possession of disaffected subjects of a Sovereign in amity with Her Majesty, Lord Salisbury thinks that steps should be taken to obviate this risk.

It is understood, from inquiries which have been made at the Colonial Office, that the Colonial authorities at Gibraltar possess legal powers to search the "Tourmaline," and to detain any arms, &c., which may be found on board, and should this be the case, Lord Salisbury would be obliged if Mr. Secretary Chamberlain would cause the requisite instructions to that effect to be telegraphed to Gibraltar.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 67.

Vice-Consul Swanston to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 33.)

My Lord,

Las Palmas, February 27, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a short summary of the incidents connected with the recent voyage of the "Tourmaline."

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. SWANSTON.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Summary of the Incidents connected with the recent Voyage of the "Tourmaline."

July 12, 1897.—Received telegram from Foreign Office requesting Vice-Consul to warn Major Spilsbury that if he proceeded to Morocco without consent of Moorish Government it would be at his own risk, and that he must not expect support or assistance.

July 14, 1897.—Forwarded despatch No. 213 to Foreign Office acknowledging receipt of telegram of the 12th July, and stating that Major Spilsbury held that he had a right to travel in Sus, with or without the Sultan's permission, and to be entitled to the same protection from Her Majesty's Government in Sus as in any other part of Morocco.

January 1, 1898.—Received Confidential despatch from Foreign Office requesting information by telegraph as to arrival and movements of "Tourmaline," and inclosing copies of despatches from Sir F. Plunkett and Consul-General Perry concerning the shipment of arms at Antwerp.

January 6, 1898.—Forwarded despatch No. 1 to Foreign Office promising to telegraph "Tourmaline's" movements.

January 20, 1898.—Forwarded telegram to Foreign Office stating that "Tourmaline" was coaling at Arrecife, and that Major Spilsbury was at Wad Nun.

January 26, 1898.—Received telegram from Arrecife stating that "Tourmaline" was in quarantine. Departure uncertain owing to rough weather. Had on board 4,000 rifles and 400 cases of cartridges. "Spilsbury presumably a trader, but nothing definite known."

January 31, 1898.—Received telegram from Arrecife "'Tourmaline' sailed mid-night for Assaka."

Received secret code telegram from British Minister, Tangier; being unable to understand forwarded to Consul, Tenerife.

12 (midnight).—Telegraphed Sir A. Nicholson to communicate in Government telegraph code.

February 1, 1898.—Telegraphed Foreign Office that "Tourmaline" had sailed for Assaka, having still on board 4,000 rifles and 400 cases of cartridges. Others supposed landed Morocco coast.

2:30 P.M.—Sir A. Nicolson telegraphed under what flag "Tourmaline" sailed, and requesting any information as to Major Spilsbury's future movements.

3 P.M.—Telegraphed Sir A. Nicolson "Tourmaline" under British flag. Spilsbury sailed from Arrecife on "Tourmaline" in night of the 28th January, on return voyage to Assaka, to land remainder of arms.

4:45 P.M.—Consul wired meaning of secret code telegram, and "Reply here. I will communicate Tangier."

5 P.M.—Telegraphed Consul: "Cabled Nicolson last night to use Government code." Received his message 2:30 P.M. Quite clear. Answered at 3 P.M.

February 4, 1898.—Sir A. Nicolson telegraphed asking me if able to supply evidence that "Tourmaline" on return voyage to Assaka had on board 4,000 rifles, or if able to say whether any one on board stated intention of landing cargo in Sus.

Telegraphed Sir A. Nicolson: "Evidence from Lanzarote probably correct, but could not vouch for it."

Telegraphed Foreign Office: "'Tourmaline' arrived here (Las Palmas). Put in quarantine."

February 14, 1898.—Telegraphed Foreign Office: "'Tourmaline' sailed yesterday. Destination unknown."

Received letter Señor Director de Sanidad Maritima protesting against the conduct of Major Spilsbury in criticising by letter the action of the Direccion de Sanidad re quarantine. This letter referred among other things to the payment of the guard boat.

Replied to the Director de Sanidad Maritima expressing disapproval of the conduct of Major Spilsbury and regretting that earlier information had not been received as to the state of things which led to the incident.

February 24, 1898.—Sir A. Nicolson wired: "Could you procure and forward officially attested copy of ship's manifest of goods on board 'Tourmaline' before and immediately after visits to Morocco coast?"

Telegraphed Interventor de Registros, Arrecife, asking if he would telegraph whether "Tourmaline" presented manifest on arrival and departure.

February 25, 1898.—Interventor replied: "Tourmaline" proceeding from Antwerp did not present manifest or particulars of cargo discharged.

Telegraphed Sir A. Nicolson: "Impossible. No papers handed over to authorities."

No. 68.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 19.)

Sir,

Downing Street, March 18, 1898.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to the letter from your Department of the 15th instant, a copy of telegrams on the subject of the shipment of arms for Morocco on board the "Tourmaline."

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

Mr. Chamberlain to Governor Sir R. Biddulph.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Downing Street, March 16, 1898, 5:37 P.M.

INFORMATION received by Foreign Office that yacht "Tourmaline," lying at Gibraltar, has on board large quantity of arms for export to Morocco.

You should take steps at once, if Attorney-General thinks circumstances warrant action under Export of Arms Ordinance.

Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Gibraltar, March 17, 1898, 2:45 P.M.

YACHT referred to in your telegram of yesterday is not now in our waters. I am sending by post Attorney-General's opinion.

No. 69.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 29. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 8, 1898.

THE Spanish Minister informed me to-day that a deputation from the Beni Uriagul tribe in the Riff territory, in the immediate neighbourhood of Alhucemas, had visited him this morning to request that he would grant them Spanish protection. The deputation, composed of five of the principal men, stated that the tribe had recently been visited by the French Consular Agent at Tetuan, who had offered them French protection; but that as they mistrusted the French and preferred to be on amicable terms with their Spanish neighbours at Alhucemas, the tribe had deputed them to visit the Spanish Legation and tender their services to the Spanish authorities. The deputation added that unless their prayer were granted the force of circumstances might compel them to accept the offer which had been made them by the French Agent.

M. de Ojeda told them that he could not give them a definite reply till they had proved to him by documents drawn up and attested by public notaries that the French Agent had made them the offer which they mentioned, and also that the tribe or the

large majority were of the same mind as the deputation. He therefore advised them to return to their country and come back again with the documentary evidence which he required. He could not promise to grant protection to the whole tribe, but if the replies they brought back were satisfactory, he would accord the Headmen the favour they desired.

The deputation professed to be satisfied with this reply, and expressed their readiness to procure the documents which had been requested.

M. de Ojeda told me that his information led him to believe that the French authorities were very active among the Bocoyans, and that though there was a division of opinion among that tribe, still he feared that a considerable number would eventually accept the offers of French protection which were being made to them.

It would, he added, be a serious matter if the Beni Uriagul also drifted under French protection, as they were located round the Spanish Settlement of Alhucemas, and it might be, in certain eventualities, exceedingly inconvenient to be surrounded by the adherents of France. He would inform me of the replies which he received from the tribe so soon as the deputation returned.

It is possible that the rumours of severe measures being in preparation on the part of the Moorish Government in regard to the Riff territory may have caused the tribes on the seaboard to be desirous of obtaining some foreign protection, as though it is conceivable that the Riff tribes would combine to resist foreign invasion, their normal inter-tribal dissensions would not be laid aside in face of action on the part of the Sultan. These dissensions would be utilized by the Moorish authorities, an art in which they are masters, and no tribe could count with certainty on obtaining any support from others when the Moorish machinery was once set in motion against it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 70.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 30.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 12, 1898.

I RECEIVED yesterday a despatch from Mr. Irwin, dated the 3rd instant, informing me that he had been received that day by the Grand Vizier, to whom he delivered a letter with which I had furnished him, stating that he was instructed to speak to his Excellency in regard to the Europeans who had been made prisoners at Arksis, and also in respect to other pending questions.

Mr. Irwin explained to his Excellency the legal procedure which it was proposed to follow, and also urged him to send the prisoners without delay to Tangier.

The Grand Vizier, who received Mr. Irwin with courtesy and in a very friendly manner, observed that the Globe Venture Syndicate had committed a very grave offence in making compacts with the Sûs Chiefs who were subjects of the Sultan and inhabiting His Majesty's territory; and that their action had pained him the more as they were subjects of a Government who was on most friendly terms with that of Morocco, and for whom the Moorish Government entertained the highest esteem. He also expressed surprise that it should be necessary to formally prosecute the prisoners, when the proofs of their misdeeds were so clear.

Mr. Irwin explained that it was necessary to hold a trial so that the prisoners could have an opportunity of defending themselves, and he then referred to the reports that had been current that the prisoners were not well treated and had been put in chains. The Grand Vizier said that orders had been sent to Kaïd-el-Guilooly to take care for the comfort of the prisoners, and to see that they had proper animals for travelling, and added that he had not heard that any of the prisoners were ill. I may state that the last information which has reached me was to the effect that the prisoners were being well cared for.

The Grand Vizier added that some of the rifles which had been seized were already in the Sultan's camp, and that they were of a different pattern to those which were generally in use in Morocco.

The Grand Vizier, in conclusion, requested Mr. Irwin to put down in writing all that

he had said so that he might submit it to the Sultan, and promised to give a reply very shortly.

I trust and believe that no further difficulties will arise as to the prompt dispatch of the prisoners to Tangier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 71.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 12, 1898.

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 13 of the 16th ultimo, transmitting evidence from Antwerp as to the embarkation of arms and ammunition on board the "Tourmaline," and I communicated the documents which were inclosed to the Attorney-General of Gibraltar. Mr. Fawkes considers that the proof of the shipment at Antwerp would be of value in the prosecution of the case; but he is of opinion that the statement in writing of a Customs official, although the signature and identity of the writer is verified by the Consul-General, could not be used as evidence against the prisoners. He considers that the embarkation must be shown by some person from Antwerp who of his own knowledge could prove the shipment of arms.

I am afraid that this would be difficult to obtain and would entail, in any case, considerable expense. The "Tourmaline" has been lying for some days past in Gibraltar, and must have still the greater portion of her cargo on board.

The authorities in that port are, however, unable to search her for contraband, unless she attempts to tranship or land cargo of a prohibited nature.

The prosecution will, therefore, have chiefly to rely on those native witnesses whom the Moorish authorities may send here to prove the landing, if any, on the Sûs coast of cargo from the vessel, and the intention to disembark other cargo will be difficult to establish if the prosecution is unable to enter into the question of the nature and quantity of the goods which the "Tourmaline" had on board. I do not know if your Lordship in the circumstances would consider it desirable to incur the expense of procuring the presence here of a witness from Antwerp to establish the facts as to the embarkation of arms at that port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 72.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 33.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 12, 1898.

THE Spanish, German, and French Ministers have received letters from the Grand Vizier stating that His Majesty the Sultan will be pleased to receive them at Court as soon as it may be convenient to them. The two former have to present their letters of credence, and the French Minister has to convey to the Sultan some presents which the President of the French Republic is sending in return for those brought by the Moorish Mission to France last year.

The Spanish Minister informed me, confidentially, to-day, that he had telegraphed to his Government suggesting that he should postpone his visit. He did not think, in view of the present situation of Spain, that the moment was a favourable one. He would have to use some decided language in regard to the delay in delimitating the neutral zone at Melilla, and he feared that such language, which it would be impossible to support by any action at present, would, in the circumstances, do more harm than good. He had therefore proposed to his Government that he should make a tour of inspection of the Spanish military posts on the Mediterranean coast of Morocco. This tour he had been instructed to make when convenient, and he considered it would serve as a good excuse for not proceeding to Court, and at the same time enable him to obtain some information as to the condition of affairs in the Riff districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 73.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 34.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 13, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to state that I received to-day further letters from Mr. Irwin, dated up to the 9th instant, reporting that he was still awaiting replies to the requests which he had made, by my instructions, for the immediate transference of the prisoners to Tangier.

Mr. Irwin states that he is told that the question has to be submitted to the Sultan and discussed with His Majesty, and that as the camp is now on the march no business is transacted. Mr. Irwin adds that he is continually pressing for replies, but hitherto without success.

He informs me that he learns confidentially that the Grand Vizier considered he would be justified in detaining the prisoners for three years.

This delay is most regrettable, and I am sending a further communication to the Grand Vizier, of which I beg leave to transmit to your Lordship a copy.

I am, I confess, surprised by this persistent reluctance on the part of the Grand Vizier to hand over the prisoners, and I fear it may now be necessary to wait till the Court reaches Morocco city, in about a fortnight's time, before the matter is definitely settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, March 13, 1898.

I HAVE received letters from Mr. Irwin announcing that he has arrived in the camp of His Majesty (compliments), and that he has seen you, O friend, and found you, I am glad to hear, in good health—may you long continue to be so—and he also told me of the friendly and courteous reception you accorded him, and this was to be expected from your known friendship; but still I thank you for it.

Now, O friend, you know the chief object for which I sent Mr. Irwin was to request that those in detention in Kaïd-el-Guilooly's hands should be sent without delay to me here, that they may be dealt with as circumstances may require, and Mr. Irwin will have explained to you fully the proceedings which my Government intend to take, and so you may be satisfied that the ends of justice will be fully met.

By Treaties, as you are well aware, O friend, British subjects must be judged by British Tribunals, and by them alone, and if a British subject commits any illegal act, he must be at once handed over to the British authorities.

The persons in custody have now been arrested many weeks ago, and they are still detained near Mogador.

Whatever illegal acts they may have committed, the illegality should be allowed to rest with them alone, and it would be most unfortunate if the Moorish Government also allow themselves to bear even the appearance of not acting strictly in accordance with Treaties and what is right, and should place themselves also in the wrong by unduly detaining those whom they have captured.

Let me advise you, O intelligent one, to avoid this possibility. I do so as a friend, and I must request the immediate transfer of the prisoners to me here. This is in accordance with Treaties and justice, and it is essential that both you and I strictly observe Treaty stipulations.

I have told Mr. Irwin to deliver this letter to you, O friend, and I expect a speedy and satisfactory reply, so that I may at once inform my Government, and may you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 74.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 35.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 13, 1898.

THE Moorish steamer "Hassanee," which has been lying in Tangier Bay for some time, has received orders to proceed at once to Casablanca to ship grain for the Riff districts.

I am informed, confidentially, from the Court, that the real object of her dispatch to Casablanca is to ship 1,200 men, who are at present waiting at that port, and some machine guns. She is then to proceed to the Riff coast, punish the Bocoyan tribe and destroy their boats. It is probable that news of this intended expedition will have reached the Bocoyans long before the arrival of the "Hassanee" on their coast, and that they will have taken measures to avoid, as far as possible, the punishment which it is proposed to administer. I believe that the reports of French protection having been promised to certain of the Bocoyans have much disquieted the Moorish Government, and that they are anxious, by a display of force, to overawe the rest of the Riff tribes.

It is doubtful if the expedition, should it really take place, will achieve the results which are hoped for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 75.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 21.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 21, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 28 of the 3rd instant, reporting that the "Tourmaline" was at Gibraltar and that Major Spilsbury had called on the Attorney-General. From a telegram received at the Colonial Office on the 17th instant it appears, however, that the vessel is no longer in Gibraltar waters, and that the opinion of the Attorney-General on the case is on its way home by post.

In connection with your observation that as Major Spilsbury is probably aware that a prosecution is pending it is unlikely that he will come to Tangier, it may be well that I should remind you that, by Article 33 of the Morocco Order in Council, the "Fugitive Offenders' Act, 1881," has been applied to Morocco, and that therefore a warrant issued in Morocco might, on being properly backed, be executed against him at Gibraltar or in other parts of the British dominions to which the "Fugitive Offenders' Act" applies.

But so far as Gibraltar is concerned the point is, at any rate for the moment, of no practical importance, as the "Tourmaline" has left Gibraltar and presumably Major Spilsbury has left in her.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 76.

Mr. H. J. Sedway to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

My Lord,

38, Warwick Road, Earl's Court, London, March 21, 1898.

I AM in need of information relative to trading at Cape Juby where the North West African Company (Limited), acquired territorial and trading rights ceded to them by Treaty with the principal Chiefs of that region. It has lately been publicly asserted by certain persons, acting apparently in a manner prejudicial to the development of British commercial enterprise in those parts, that the said rights have been

taken over by the Sultan of Morocco from the North-West African Company for 50,000*l.*, and further, that no foreign traders were thereafter again to be allowed to carry on any more business operations there; whereas, according to a pamphlet entitled the "Story of Cape Juby," the said amount was paid by the Sultan to them as an indemnity for injury done them at Cape Juby by men acting under his orders, and that the Company's interests there were never relinquished.

I am desirous of learning the facts regarding this matter, and shall be grateful to your Lordship for any information you can give me relating thereto, which might serve as a guide in the establishing of business relations with that place.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) H. J. SEDWAY.

No. 77.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 23, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case.

I have to report that I have received a letter from Legation interpreter, dated the 16th instant, in which he gives substance of the draft of the Sultan's proposed reply.

His Majesty maintains that the affair, which practically amounts to an attempt to arm and incite Moorish subjects to rebellion, is most grave. He adds that the motive of the Syndicate was to cause a separation of the Sus from his dominions. His Majesty requests that all on board the "Tourmaline" be arrested; that the Syndicate be prosecuted for sending an armed vessel with hostile intentions into one of his provinces; and also that all expenses may be reimbursed to the Moorish Government by the Syndicate. His Majesty thinks that, when all these matters are settled, then will be the time to think of delivering up the prisoners.

Mr. Irwin on insisting, in accordance with Treaty, on the delivery of the prisoners, was informed that the matter would be submitted to the Sultan again.

The Moorish Government obviously do not regard case as smuggling simply, but as an attempt to excite rebellion also.

It is probable that my note to the Grand Vizier, inclosed in my despatch No. 34, is now in his hands, and therefore it would be better, I think, to await a further report from Mr. Irwin.

No. 78.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 23, 1898.

REFERRING to my telegram No. 16, I have received a further report from the Legation interpreter, dated the 19th instant. The Sultan still refuses to send prisoners here until he is informed what course is to be pursued with regard to the whole affair. The object of the Syndicate, he maintains, was to excite the tribes to oppose his authority and become independent.

His Majesty asserts that he has received from the Sus this information, on which he places the utmost reliance. He declares that when Treaties were drawn up so serious an offence was not foreseen, and therefore is not covered by Treaty. The Sultan further demands the return of four Sus natives who were carried away on board the "Tourmaline."

The Legation interpreter is now on his return with Sultan's reply, and I should be grateful if your Lordship would inform me what course I had best take in the present circumstances.

No. 79.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 25, 1898, night.

GLOBE Venture Syndicate.

I have received your telegram No. 17 of the 23rd instant.

It would be advisable for you to gain your German colleague's support when you again demand the prisoners' surrender. You may make a positive assertion that the Syndicate had no other object in view than to open trade with the tribes; they declare that they were ignorant of the "Tourmaline" conveying any goods except those of an ordinary description, and that, if arms and ammunition were placed on board, this step was taken without their consent.

You are authorized to give an assurance to the Sultan that all the parties concerned in the case will undergo prosecution for any infringement of the law, evidence of which can be brought forward, and that Her Majesty's Government will take measures to insure that any natives who may have been removed from Morocco against their will shall be returned.

Her Majesty's Government cannot, however, agree that a departure from Treaty stipulations would be justified by anything which has taken place, and they insist on their being carried out.

No. 80.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 25, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 34 of the 13th instant, and I approve the further communication which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier requesting the immediate transfer to you of the imprisoned members of the crew of the "Tourmaline," now in the hands of the Moorish authorities.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 81.

Foreign Office to Mr. H. J. Sedway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 25, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, asking for information in regard to British trade on the north-west coast of Morocco and as to the arrangement come to between the Sultan of Morocco and the North-West Africa Company.

In reply, I am to inform you that some years ago a station was established at Cape Juby by a British Company styling itself the North-West Africa Company, which had entered into agreements for trade with the tribes in the neighbourhood. In 1895 the Sultan of Morocco acquired, by purchase, the property and rights possessed by the Company within this district. On the occasion of the transfer to the Sultan of the port of Cape Juby and of the adjoining territory, it was arranged between Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier and the Moorish Government that the port should remain open for buying and selling, and that the customs duties for exports and imports should be the same as at other ports on the Moorish coast. The Moorish Government agreed to grant suitable lots of land on twenty years' lease to foreign merchants, on the application of their respective Legations, upon which such merchants might construct, at their own expense, whatever dwellings and warehouses they might find necessary; at the

end of the twenty years' lease the said allotments, with the buildings, thereon, to become the property of the Moorish Government. The Moorish Government, however, declared that they would not be bound to provide houses or warehouses, nor to supply boats to land or ship cargo until such time as it might please the Sultan to give orders to that effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 82.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 26.)

Sir,

Downing Street, March 25, 1898.

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st instant respecting the yacht "Tourmaline," I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch and its inclosure from the Governor of Gibraltar on the subject.

Although Mr. Chamberlain is of opinion that if the "Tourmaline" had been lying for a considerable time in the port of Gibraltar, it might be contended that the arms supposed to be on board were intended to be exported from Gibraltar within the meaning of the Exportation of Arms Ordinance, notwithstanding there had been no transshipment, he does not recommend that the instruction to the Governor to order the "Tourmaline" to be searched, and the arms to be seized should be maintained in view of the opinion of the local Attorney-General.

I am to add that as the "Tourmaline" is still lying in the Bay of Gibraltar, though not in British waters, it is not improbable that she may have to enter such waters or pass through them, or Major Spilsbury may enter the town for any purpose. If, therefore, it is intended to prosecute that gentleman, it might be well to send the warrant for his arrest to Gibraltar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. BERTRAM COX.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Gibraltar, March 17, 1898.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your telegram of yesterday's date, in connection with the alleged shipment of arms for Morocco in the steam yacht "Tourmaline," directing that if the Attorney-General considers that the circumstances of the case warrant it, steps should be taken under the Exportation of Arms Ordinance.

2. I have to-day advised you by telegram that the yacht is no longer in our waters, so that no immediate action is possible, but as she is still in the Bay of Gibraltar, being at present lying off the Spanish port of Puente Mayorga she may re-enter our jurisdiction at any time, and I therefore called upon the Attorney-General for an opinion.

3. I inclose a copy of that opinion, from which you will see that Mr. Fawkes advises that the circumstances of the case would not warrant steps being taken under the Exportation of Arms Ordinance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BIDDULPH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

Attorney-General to Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar.

Colonial Secretary,

March 17, 1898.

I ASSUME, for the purposes of my opinion, that the arms referred to in the telegrams of the Colonial Office are on board the "Tourmaline," and that they are intended for Morocco.

The question is whether under these circumstances the Captain of the Port can take

action under section 7 of the Exportation of Arms Ordinance. Section 7, which gives the power of search, provides for the seizure of all prohibited goods found on board. The search leads to the seizure, and the question arises, could the arms on board the "Tourmaline," under the circumstances, be seized, and are they forfeited to Her Majesty by the 5th section of the Ordinance? That section specifies the circumstances which would lead to the forfeiture of the prohibited goods.

I assume the "Tourmaline" called at the port in transit, bringing the arms as her cargo, and that she made no attempt to tranship or unload her cargo in Gibraltar. The mere entrance and exit without any disturbance of the cargo in the port would not, I think, constitute either an importation or an exportation of the cargo. (See "Wilson v. Robertson," 4 E and B 923.) Otherwise, every ship having arms or ammunition as part of her cargo, calling at Gibraltar merely for orders or coal, would commit a breach of the Ordinance unless the authoritative warrant of his Excellency was first obtained under section 3.

In this view I very respectfully advise his Excellency that unless there is evidence of transshipment or unloading, or an intention to tranship or unload, no action should be taken against the vessel under the Exportation of Arms Ordinance.

(Signed) A. W. FAWKES.

No. 83.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 26, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 32 of the 12th instant, respecting communications which you have had with the Attorney-General of Gibraltar, relative to the evidence already obtained from Antwerp as to the embarkation of arms and ammunition on board the yacht "Tourmaline."

On learning from you that Mr. Fawkes considers the presence of a witness from Antwerp necessary for the success of the prosecution, endeavours will be made to procure one.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 84.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 14, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 166 of the 30th November, 1897, I have the honour to transmit copy of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier, stating that orders have been issued to Cid Mohammed Torres to pay the claim, amounting to 536 dol. 17 c., for damage done to the British felucca "Virgen de los Angeles" and for other expenses by a piratical attack on her in April of last year.

I will collect the money from the Sultan's Deputy here and forward it to the authorities at Gibraltar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.)

14th Ramadan, 1315 (February 7, 1898).

YOUR letter has reached us, O, friend, in which you revert to the case of the British vessel "Virgen de los Angeles," in which the vessel (as you mention) was threatened by the Rifians, who did not succeed in reaching her, so that she made good her escape.

You now mention, O, friend, that the vessel's sails were struck by bullets fired by the Rifians from a distance, and that on account of repairs for damage arising there-

from, compensation for delay during execution of these repairs, and notarial expenses, a sum of 536 dol. 17 c. is due. You ask that this amount should be handed over to you. We have acquainted our Lord (compliments) with the foregoing, and he has taken cognizance of it, and has ordered me to reply to you that you do not ignore, O, intelligent one, that this and other vessels proceed to the Riff coasts for certain motives which cause reason for ground for complaint against the Riffians, and the Makhzen are thereby placed in great difficulties.

Truly, the discharge of a bullet or two from afar off, even supposing it should hit its mark, would not cause great damage, but, in saying this, it is only the intention of the Government to explain to your Excellency that which can hardly be hidden from you that you may take notice of it; and as regards the money, Shereefian orders have been issued for the payment of it to you through Cid Mohammed Torres, as you requested.

Peace, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 85.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 19, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 153 of the 12th November, 1897, I have the honour to report that the Moorish Government have made a proposal in regard to the question of the duty on coriander seed, which appears to offer a prospect of some settlement being arrived at in the matter. The Moorish Government propose to reimburse the merchants for the excess duty paid on the shipments of that article up to the 31st December, 1896, and to fix from that date the duty at 10 reals a cwt.

This question came before a meeting of the Diplomatic Body yesterday, and my German colleague and myself, who alone are directly interested in the question, pointed out that much of the stock of the 1896 harvest remained still unexported at the date mentioned, and that, indeed, a considerable quantity was still left in the stores at Casablanca.

The other Representatives seemed generally to be of opinion that the merchants should have exported (paying the duty under protest) more expeditiously; but, finally, it was agreed to propose to the Moorish Government to extend the period to the 31st December, 1897, and to admit a duty of 10 reals after that date.

I doubt if the right of the Moorish Government to levy a 10-real duty can well be contested, and I am inclined to believe that merchants will be able to adapt their operations to the increased duty.

The merchants wished to export all the 1896 stock at the lower rate of duty, but it seemed to my colleagues that a margin of a year and a-half was sufficient, and that we could not well insist on a longer extension. The merchants also have claimed compensation for deterioration of stock. I am afraid that this is a claim which can hardly be maintained. The advice given to them was to export under protest, and if the condition of the market did not allow them, or other reasons prevented them from doing so, I hardly think the Moorish Government can be held responsible.

I trust your Lordship will approve of the compromise which has been arrived at.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 86.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 28, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case:

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 12, I will ask my German colleague to co-operate with me, but I would propose awaiting text of Sultan's reply,

which should arrive shortly, before taking further steps. To convince the Moorish Government that agent acted independently of the Syndicate as to embarkation in Belgium of arms and ammunition will, I am afraid, be difficult, and urging this point would probably confuse matters. I would suggest, while giving assurance that all will be prosecuted who can be, simply insisting on surrender of prisoners.

Affairs might be facilitated by a prospect of some indemnity as requested.

No. 87.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 19.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 29, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case:

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 13, I have received information that the "Tourmaline" left Gibraltar Bay about five days ago; question as to execution of warrant had been raised, but the offence, it was considered, did not come under Article 9 of the Act.

I am again consulting the Attorney-General of Gibraltar on the subject.

No. 88.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 30, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case.

With reference to my telegram No. 19, I have to report that a warrant for Major Spilsbury is being forwarded to Gibraltar in case he should return there.

No. 89.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 30, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 37 of the 19th instant, and I approve the arrangement which has been arrived at between the Moorish Government and the Diplomatic Body with regard to the duty on coriander seed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 90.

Mr. H. J. Sedway to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

38, Warwick Road, Earl's Court, London, March 30, 1898.

I BEG to thank you for your communication of the 25th instant relative to Cape Juby.

With your Lordship's permission, I may state that, having been the representative of the North-West Africa Company at that place during 1880-81 and part of 1882, the said Company, from my own personal knowledge, had no grant of land allotted to it at that time, but was merely granted by the Chiefs of the district the right to trade with their respective tribes, who, being independent, owed no allegiance to the Sultan of Morocco. Those Chiefs were so guardedly suspicious of all and any outsiders that they would not allow us to erect any building on the mainland, even for the legitimate

purposes of trade. This fact obliged the Company to incur heavy expense by putting up a strong building on the reef lying outside the port, which, being in deep water, and the natives not possessing boats, they could not get at; thus we were secured against molestation or any sudden attack. This leads me to infer that the Sultan could only have acquired from the Company their trading rights and the building on the reef, in which case others desirous of trading with the natives could not be excluded.

I am anxious to be assured of the exact state of things, so that by establishing business relations with Cape Juby I shall be incurring no risk. I shall be greatly indebted to your Lordship if you will grant me access to any papers at the Foreign Office bearing on the subject.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) H. J. SEDWAY.

No. 91.

Messrs. B. A. Dehn and Heine's Successors to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord, 47, Newton Street, Dale Street, Manchester, March 31, 1898.

WE had the honour of addressing you several times within the last two years with regard to our claims on the Moorish Government arising out of the disturbances in the Mزاب district. Our debtors, who were ruined in consequence of these disturbances, are still unable to pay their debts to us, and as a considerable time has now elapsed since we last heard from your Lordship about the progress of the negotiations on this subject between Her Majesty's Government and that of the Sultan of Morocco, we venture to address you to-day for the purpose of inquiring whether a settlement of these old claims may soon be expected.

We are, &c.
(Per pro B. A. Dehn and Heine's Successors),
(Signed)

No. 92.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 2, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case.

With reference to my telegram No. 18 have received letter, dated the 25th ultimo, from Legation Interpreter at Morocco, stating that he has not yet received a reply from the Sultan. It appears that some Court influences are adverse, although the Grand Vizier seems more inclined to agree thereto.

No. 93.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 38.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 21, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 29 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, regarding the Spanish protection, which it is alleged has been granted to the Riff tribe, the Beni-Uriagal.

The Spanish Minister communicated to me a document, which he states is signed by two notaries public, affirming that certain villages of the Bocoya tribe have received French protection; and I beg leave to transmit a translation of this paper.

I do not know whether he has yet proceeded to formally grant letters of protection to the Beni-Uriagal tribe; and it is probable that he is awaiting instructions from his

Government on the subject. The point which M. de Ojeda emphasizes is that he will be compelled to counteract the activity of the French authorities by protecting the tribe in the vicinity of Alhucemas, while the French Minister tells me he finally acceded to the engagement of the Bocoya recruits because the Spanish local press were twitting him with the failure of his negotiations in that direction.

In any case the rivalry for influence among the Riff tribes between the French and Spanish Representatives seems to lead to a very liberal interpretation of the Madrid Convention in regard to protection. A fresh element of confusion will be introduced if the Moorish Government carries out its intention of punishing the Bocoya tribe; and I gather from the French Minister that he was somewhat annoyed at this project.

M. de Monbel inquired of me if I had suggested the proposed expedition, and I was able to assure him that beyond obtaining the payment of a small indemnity on account of a felucca, on which a piratical attack had been made last year, I had had no recent communications with the Moorish Government in regard to its action towards any Riff tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 93.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 8.)

Sir,

Tetuan, March 18, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that I hear the Spanish Consul is giving protection to a number of the Beni-Uriagal tribe.

I hear this morning that the Governor sent to the Representative of the Riff, Ali Thail, and told him to bring in certain of the Beni-Uriagal before him, and that they have declined to obey the summons, saying they are under Spanish protection.

My informant says they have not yet got their Spanish papers, but that the Spanish Consul has promised that they shall have them as soon as he receives them from the Minister. I will endeavour to ascertain how far those statements can be verified.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 93.

Document communicated by the Spanish Minister at Tangier.

(Translation.)

PRAISE to the one God! No kingdom but His endures!

It is a question of the tribe of Bocoya. The villages called Azmour and Fiddan Aesa and Tefenasa—they are all French, whether large or small. Everybody knows this. Peace. I tell this to you, and you are now acquainted with their affair, and there is no doubt concerning it. This letter is evident. The matter is undoubted and true.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-BREEK-EL-WARLIAGHLI.
MOHAMMED-BEN-MOHAMMED-ES-SHAK.

No. 94.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 39.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 22, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a report which I have received from Mr. Irwin, and which communicates the substance of a reply which the Sultan proposes to make to my request, that the European prisoners at present in charge of Kaïd Guilooly be handed over to their authorities.

There is some force in the observations which His Majesty makes in respect to the action of the Syndicate, but I submit that no grounds exist for any delay in fulfilling the Treaty stipulations as regards the prompt delivery of the prisoners. His Majesty himself admits that the prisoners were probably mere innocent agents.

His Majesty raises some questions in regard to the arrest of the other people on board the "Tourmaline," and to the prosecution of the Syndicate; and I fear there will be difficulty in convincing the Moorish Government that the law imposes certain limits, and requires certain proofs which even a Government is unable to overstep or ignore.

It is possible that the reply of the Sultan will undergo some modifications, before it is finally dispatched; and my note to the Grand Vizier of the 13th instant, copy of which I transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 34 of the 13th instant, should now be in his hands. I would, therefore, propose to take no further steps till Mr. Irwin sends me another communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Mr. Irwin to Sir A. Nicolson.

His Shereefian Majesty's Camp, Dukala,
March 16, 1898.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that this evening I saw Cid Abdelkrim by request of the Grand Vizier. The interview was a somewhat prolonged one, as he read to me the drafts of the replies to the various matters I have laid before the Grand Vizier, as in your instructions to me.

The reply, in the matter of the British subjects taken in the Sûs district, he informed me was from His Majesty the Sultan. It commenced by pointing out the extreme gravity of the offence committed by the Globe Venture Syndicate, and that it is a very grave matter, in fact, the most grave, and that the enterprise was undertaken with premeditation, at a time when His Shereefian Majesty was far from the scene of action; that its purpose was to arm the Sûs tribes to rebel against the authority of His Shereefian Majesty, and had it not happened that a Shereefian force was near that locality attending to other matters it might have entailed the dispatch of a large expedition to put down the rebellion which would have inevitably followed the landing of so large a quantity of arms and ammunition, and many lives would be lost on both sides before it could be quelled; that the motive of the Syndicate was to cause the Sûs to separate itself from the Sultan's dominions.

As to the prisoners in the hands of the Government, His Majesty was of opinion that it was hardly the time to speak about them or their trial in Tangier, as His Majesty demanded that all who were on board the "Tourmaline" at the time the rifles were landed, including Abdelkrim Bey, should be arrested and sent to Tangier for trial, and that the natives of Sûs who were taken away on the "Tourmaline," when she escaped from the "Hassanee," be delivered up to the Moorish Government; and that the Syndicate be prosecuted for having dispatched a steamer laden with arms and ammunition and carrying cannon to a province in the Sultan's dominions which he had been and was still engaged in subduing. He said that the cannon could only have been intended to repel attack.

Further, that His Majesty would demand also that the Syndicate be made to reimburse all the expense the Moorish Government had already incurred or might incur in the future with reference to this matter, and that when all this had been agreed to it would be time to speak about the prisoners in their hands, who were not the leaders but merely men brought out by the Syndicate, and who most probably had no idea of its designs.

His Shereefian Majesty had resolved, immediately he reached Marakish, to dispatch a special envoy to England to Her Majesty's Government, but that, as you had sent the interpreter of the Legation to Court to speak with them on this affair, His Shereefian Majesty approved your arrangement, and would send his views through me.

With reference to the opening up of a port at Erksis or Assaka, the matter had His Majesty's most serious attention, and he was fully aware of the benefits that would be gained thereby; but that the present was not the time to carry out this project, as His Majesty is still engaged in tranquillizing Sûs, and when tranquillity is restored in

that region he will then attend to this matter, as there are many arrangements essential to the opening of a port there, and that trade be carried safely on—such as colonizing the port, erecting the necessary buildings, and establishing a garrison, all of which must be done before the port can be opened up to trade.

His Majesty feared that other similar attempts might be made by this Syndicate or other Companies or merchants, who might choose a time when His Majesty is engaged in some distant district, from which it would be impossible to dispatch troops to Sûs, and when no sufficient force of troops would be available in Sûs to frustrate such attempts to carry out their designs. For this reason His Majesty desired this Syndicate should be prosecuted, and made to indemnify the Moorish Government for the expense incurred in connection with its attempt.

I pointed out to Cid Abdelkrim that the Globe Venture Syndicate was essentially a trading concern, and that it took merchandize to Sûs to make profit upon it, and the fact of its arriving there while the Sultan was at Tedla could only be a coincidence. I told him that Her Majesty's Government would be very seriously concerned if the Moorish Government persisted in its refusal to hand over the prisoners to the British Legation to be tried by British law, as is stipulated in the Treaties. I impressed this point upon him very strongly.

His Majesty also touched on the matter of eye-witnesses, and said that the affair was patent to the whole world, and witnesses were therefore unnecessary. I referred Cid Abdelkrim to the paragraph in your instructions relating to witnesses, and of which he has a translation.

Cid Abdelkrim then said he would confer again with the Vizier and see me to-morrow.

I will report what occurs at the next meeting as quickly as possible afterwards, but I doubt if another meeting will take place to-morrow, as the camp has made a march to-day, and is to continue to-morrow to Sok-el-Arbaa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. IRWIN.

P.S.—His Majesty believes that no chains have been placed on the prisoners, but, nevertheless, he has complied with your request, and sent orders that if any have been placed on them they are to be removed, at the same time orders have been renewed to furnish the prisoners with everything they may require.

A. I.

No. 95.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 22, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that the Moorish steamer, the "Hassanie," returned here this morning from Casablanca. I am informed that she embarked at that port about 800 soldiers and three mountain guns. The Spanish Minister tells me that the Moorish authorities have applied to him for permission to allow these troops to land at and pass through Melilla on their way to the Riff districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 96.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 23, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a further Report which I have received from Mr. Irwin, stating that the Sultan maintains his refusal to deliver the European prisoners until he is acquainted with the course it is proposed to pursue in regard to the general action of the Syndicate.

Although the Grand Vizier had not received my note at the time Mr. Irwin wrote,

I do not anticipate that it will now in any way alter the views of the Moorish Government, as they have placed the question on a ground on which my communication did not enter. I treated the offence as a violation of Treaty stipulations, in dealing with which a certain mode of procedure was prescribed, a preliminary condition being the delivery of the offenders to their own authorities. The Moorish Government argue that the offence is not foreseen by Treaties, and that an appeal to these instruments is, therefore, inadmissible. The spirit of the Treaties is, I think, clearly in favour of all non-Moorish offenders, whatever may be the class of offence, being solely justiciable by their authorities; and the continued detention of the individuals in question is, I submit, an infraction of the rights enjoyed by foreigners.

The Moorish Government are detaining the prisoners as hostages, regarding them, in a sense, as prisoners of war, until what they consider an adequate reparation for the offence is made or promised. The question has consequently acquired a wider scope, and I should be grateful if your Lordship would furnish me with instructions as to what course I should now adopt.

I informed the German Minister of the general sense of the reply which the Moorish Government intended to send, and he was of opinion that the position assumed by the Moorish Government was skilfully chosen, and was not easily assailable. He intimated that, as the German subject who was captured was apparently unconnected in any way with the Syndicate, he might apply separately for his liberation; but he would in the first place telegraph to his Government. I told Baron Schenck that the Sultan had mentioned that he thought the captured men were innocent agents, and had probably embarked on the "Tourmaline" in ignorance of her mission.

I may add that Mr. Irwin mentioned in a private letter that orders had again been sent to treat the prisoners with all possible care. Mr. Irwin also says that the Moorish authorities state that only a small number of arms was landed, but that these rifles had been used against Government troops.

With respect to the four Sûs natives who were carried off by the "Tourmaline," I believe that vessel subsequently landed them on some part of the Morocco coast.

My Portuguese colleague informs me that he has received instructions from his Government to request the delivery to him of the Portuguese sailor who is among the prisoners so soon as the party arrives at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Mr. Irwin to Sir A. Nicolson.

His Shereefian Majesty's Camp, Cidi-ben-Nour,
March 19, 1898.

Sir,

I AGAIN saw Cid Abdelkrim this evening. He informed me that he had repeated to the Grand Vizier the observation I made at our last meeting, and that His Shereefian Majesty refused to look upon the Globe Venture Syndicate as a simple trading enterprise, and that His Majesty could not conform to your request that the prisoners be sent immediately to Tangier for trial, and that he could not do so until he saw what course would be pursued with regard to the whole affair.

His Majesty maintains that the object of the Syndicate was to arm the Sûs tribes to rebel against his authority and free themselves from his dominion. His Majesty instructed Cid Abdelkrim to say that so serious an offence was not foreseen when the Treaties were drawn up, and that, therefore, the Treaties do not cover it. His Majesty repeated that the natives of Sûs, carried away in the "Tourmaline," must be delivered up to the Moorish Government, as from information it has received they have not been taken back to Sûs.

I asked Cid Abdelkrim on what His Majesty based his opinion that the intentions of the Syndicate were as stated by him; and from his reply it would appear that His Majesty has received reports from Sûs to that effect, and he places the utmost reliance on these reports.

Cid Abdelkrim told me that the Vizier would see me to-morrow, and hand me the Sultan's reply to carry back to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. IRWIN.

No. 97.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 42.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 23, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11 of the 23rd January, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, forwarding a list of losses sustained by British merchants and their certificated employés during the recent visit of the Sultan's army to M'zab.

The claims amount in the aggregate to close upon 50,000 dollars (about 7,500*l.*). I am inclined to agree in principle with Mr. Maclean that the claims for property belonging to British merchants and their employés should be considered even if the property is not in the hands of those who hold certificates; but I doubt the wisdom of presenting such claims. I would propose to present to the Moorish Government only such claims as to which no doubts can be raised. Doubtful cases may prejudice perfectly legitimate claims. It is on the same grounds also that I do not consider it would be advisable to deal with the claims of mokhalats, made solely on account of the latter. There is much force in the observations which Mr. Maclean makes on that point; but this Legation has always declined to entertain the claims of mokhalats on account of their own property, and I think it would be unwise to depart from that custom.

The elimination of the above claims will probably considerably reduce the total amount for which application will have to be made to the Moorish Government.

I propose to go carefully through the lists and papers forwarded by Mr. Maclean, and also to inquire of my colleagues what steps they intend to take. I shall be glad in the meanwhile to be informed if your Lordship concurs in the views which I have submitted.

I may mention that no compensation has as yet been accorded by the Moorish Government for the losses incurred during the disturbances in the M'zab district some two years ago, although frequent collective representations have been made by the foreign Representatives on the subject.

The position of European merchants in this country at the present moment deserves much sympathy, and to the serious losses to which they have had to submit in recent years is now added a fresh exterior difficulty in the heavy fall of exchange. Trade with Morocco is undertaken in circumstances of special embarrassment and risk, and redress is becoming yearly more difficult to obtain from a Government which is itself the chief cause of the deplorable condition of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 38.)

Sir,

Dar-al-Baido, March 21, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a complete list of the losses sustained by British merchants and their certificated employés during the recent visit of the Sultan's army to M'zab.

I hoped to put forward further proof of these losses, in the form of a Moorish notarial *beena*, but am disappointed as it would seem that Moorish authorities refuse to allow notaries to take down evidence which might be used in support of claims against the Moorish Government or its officials.

I wrote to the Kaïd here asking that the town notaries should take down the depositions of the natives concerned, but he replied that the Kadi first wanted to know the nature of the statements and who the men were.

I again communicated with the Kaïd through my clerk, and explained to him once more the tenour of the depositions, and that my object was simply to bind the men down to a statement which, if found inaccurate, would tell against themselves. The Kaïd promised to talk to the Kadi, but he has given me no further reply, and it seems to me that it would be *infra dig* to press the matter again.

[1069]

Q

I mention these points to call attention to the difficulty of procuring further evidence.

In the lists of losses, I have, as far as possible, eliminated everything that appeared to my judgment to be doubtful, and I believe that the statement of losses now placed before you is not much exaggerated, excepting in the statements of the Errani brothers, to which I will allude presently.

The losses scheduled include property belonging to British subjects and their employes, which were in the hands of natives who do not hold certificates.

It seems to me that it will be difficult to press a claim on the Moorish Government for this property. Yet surely the Moorish Government should not object to return that which, it may be suggested, they took by accident, thinking that it belonged to rebels.

It is impossible to prevent natives who have stock belonging to Europeans and semsars from farming it out to others for the sake of better pasturage.

If such claims cannot be pressed it would necessitate the granting of a great many more certificates, and lead to an abuse of the system.

The refusal to support such claims when they are proved to be *bona fide* would be a serious blow to business.

Another point which calls for some observations from me is the fact of claiming for property raided which belonged to the mokhalat and not to the merchant himself. It is distinctly laid down in Article 9 that the mokhalat is not protected, and, further, the object of the certificate has been declared to be simply to protect property belonging to the merchant and in the hands of the holder.

Personally I do not think that the security afforded can properly be limited in this way; merchants often give at certain times of the year thousands of dollars to their mokhalateen to buy grain or wool. Their security for this money, while it is in the hands of the Moors, is the well-being of the latter. If the property of mokhalateen is at the mercy of native officials, merchants must stop business, and it is evident the advantage of the certificates would be gone.

These mokhalateen pay their taxes, and the benefit they derive from their certificates consists in their being safe from arrest and oppression by the Governors.

Travelling from here to Marakesh the only well-to-do Moors to be met with are those who enjoy the prestige of European protection in some form or another. In the majority of cases it will be found, on inquiry, that the protection preceded the well-being.

These men are the real machinery which works European business in country districts. They are direct customers to Europeans, and they are the security for the credit given to their brethren who do not hold certificates.

From a Moorish point of view European business creates an *imperium in imperio*. In other words, Moors connected with Europeans are independent of the Kaïds set over them. But this is not so. They pay their taxes and accompany the Kaïd on his expeditions, and he tries them when they commit offences. The Kaïd, however, cannot eat them up. He cannot pounce upon them directly he observes that they are well-to-do.

This is the real grievance of the Moorish Government.

One can have no sympathy with it when one knows that taxes and money extorted are not for the benefit of the people, are not expended in affording a just administration, but are applied by officials to enrich themselves. It is on these grounds that I feel justified in hoping that the claims herewith put forward may be considered worthy of support.

The money to be asked from the Moorish Government is only what the latter has siezed unrighteously. The claims are such as are almost invariably enforced on behalf of subjects and employes of foreign nations.

I have mentioned that I hoped to advance better proof of the alleged losses, but I would like to call your attention to the fact that Mr. Broome, my clerk, visited the scene of the raids before they occurred, and saw nearly all the Kaïds in the early part of December. He drew attention to the natives who had British interests in their charge.

He again visited the same places after the raids, and is able to bear witness to the ruin caused by them. The house of Mr. Fernan's mokhalateen had been bombarded.

With regard to Mr. Lamb's mokhalat No. 212, he was a resident in Dar-al-Baida and had gone to camp to sell grain. On his way back he was killed and beheaded.

Relative to the Errani brothers, I have only to say that I do not believe in their statements of money losses, but I wrote to their Kaïd reminding him that Sid

Mohammed was a semsar, and asking him to be careful that his family and his property were not interfered with, only a few days before the raid.

With the exception of the above-mentioned mokhalat of Messrs. Lamb, Brothers, all certificated natives escaped with their lives by running away to Dar-al-Baida, and have now returned to their respective farmsteads.

Their women and children have been recovered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 98.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 43.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 24, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 40 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that the Moorish steamer "Hassanie" left here yesterday morning. The captain informed me that he had orders to disembark the troops and the two mountain-guns at Cape Tres Forcas, close to Melilla. He also told me that his steamer had been armed with two Krupp guns and a machine-gun. He added that there was a considerable proportion of small boys and old men among the troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 99.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 72.)

My Lord,

Brussels, April 2, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 36 of the 15th February, and to previous correspondence, on the subject of the shipment of arms at Antwerp in the steam-yacht "Tourmaline," I have the honour to forward copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul-General Perry reporting the return of the "Tourmaline" to Antwerp for the purpose of discharging the cargo of arms and ammunition which she took in at that port in December last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Consul-General Perry to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 12.)

Sir,

Antwerp, April 1, 1898.

I YESTERDAY wrote you a hurried line to say that the "Tourmaline" had arrived here from Vigo via Portland. Having this morning ascertained that Messrs. Ruys and Co. were the agents of the yacht I sent Mr. Vice-Consul Lydcotte to interview Mr. Dekkers, the manager of that firm, who, without hesitation, said that the object of the "Tourmaline's" visit was to land the ammunition taken on board her some months ago. Mr. Dekkers added that the vessel had been duly entered as the custom-house, and that he did not anticipate any trouble with the authorities at relanding the cargo. Mr. Lydcotte then proceeded on board the "Tourmaline," which is lying in the old dock, and saw the master, who confirmed what Mr. Dekkers had said, i.e., that all the arms and ammunition on board were to be discharged here. The master further said that Major Spillsbury had returned to his duty at Tilbury Fort and the yacht would possibly go to England when she had got rid of the war material on board.

Wishing to receive precise information as to the shipping and discharging of cargo of any nature from foreign yachts at Antwerp, I sent Mr. Second Vice-Consul Venables to the chief of the Custom-house to inquire whether any special regulations

existed in this matter. The Custom-house Director informed him that there was no distinction whatever made between yachts and ordinary merchant-ships, as far as shipping and discharging cargo were concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DE COURCY PERRY.

No. 100.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 27.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, April 4, 1898.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 171 of the 21st December, 1897, I transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from Messrs. Dehn and Heine (successors) in regard to their claims against the Moorish Government.*

I request that you will furnish me with a report upon the present position of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 101.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, April 4, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, asking whether a settlement of your claims against the Moorish Government, arising out of the disturbances in the M'zab district, may soon be expected.

I am to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier will be instructed to furnish a report on the present position of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 102.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 30.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, April 5, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 72 of the 2nd instant, reporting that you have been informed by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Antwerp of the return to that port of the steam-yacht "Tourmaline" for the purpose of discharging the cargo of arms and ammunition which she took in at Antwerp in December last.

I request that you will instruct Mr. Consul-General Perry to obtain evidence of the actual discharge at Antwerp of the cargo of arms and ammunition from this vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 103.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 28, 1898.

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 12 of the 26th instant, regarding the detention of the European prisoners by the Moorish authorities. I saw the German Minister this morning, and suggested to him that he should co-operate with me in obtaining the surrender of those who were in captivity.

* No. 91.

Baron Schenck told me that he had telegraphed to his Government indicating the attitude which the Sultan had assumed in regard to the question, and that he was still awaiting a reply. Personally he would be quite ready to associate himself with me in any steps which I might take, but he would prefer to wait for the receipt of instructions.

I submit that it would be desirable to postpone any further communication to the Moorish Government until the full text of the Sultan's reply arrives; as there is always the possibility that some modifications may have been introduced into it at the last moment.

I would also respectfully suggest to your Lordship that it would be advisable not to discuss at this moment with the Moorish Government the question as to the connection of the Syndicate with the embarkation of arms and ammunition at Antwerp. It would, in the first place, be exceedingly difficult to convince the Moorish Government, who received independent information as to the embarkation of arms at Antwerp, that the Agent acted in this matter without the knowledge and consent of his principals. I fear that the Moorish authorities would take hold of any such statement as an excuse for prolonging discussions on the pressing question of the surrender of the prisoners; and would also receive it with distrust and suspicion.

I venture to think it would be preferable to limit any communication which it may be necessary to make, after the receipt of the Sultan's reply, to insisting on the Treaty stipulations being observed and the prisoners surrendered, accompanied with an assurance that there will be no hesitation in prosecuting all those concerned in the enterprise for any breach of the law, of which evidence can be produced.

I am daily expecting the return of Mr. Irwin, and I shall then be in a better position to report to your Lordship how matters really stand, and to make suggestions as to the best mode of dealing with the difficulty which has arisen.

I may add that I consider it probable that the German Minister will succeed, should he make the request, in procuring the liberation of the German subject. Baron Schenck leaves for Court next month to present his credentials, and the Moorish Government on such occasions is usually desirous of securing the good-will of a new Minister. Moreover they would consider that the enterprise was a distinctly English undertaking, and that the German subject was not concerned in the affairs of the Syndicate. They would, further, doubtless prefer to have to deal with one Government instead of with two.

I do not deny that I expect, in view of the attitude of the Moorish Government, to meet with considerable difficulty in procuring the speedy release of the prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 104.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 45.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 28, 1898.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 15 of the 15th instant I have the honour to transmit, herewith, copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean and Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot, regarding the alleged public sale of slaves in the coast towns of Morocco during the year 1897.

I also beg leave to inclose copy of the local English paper, which may have been the source of the information furnished to the London press. It is curious that the correspondent of the "Cronica" should, in his marginal notes, have practically withdrawn the information with which he had previously supplied his journal.

I propose to suggest to the Grand Vizier that orders be sent to the Governors of the coast towns to prevent the public sale of slaves, but though this measure may conceal, it by no means diminishes the evil with which we are dealing.

I learn from Tetuan that no public sale of slaves took place there during the past year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

Dar-el-Baida, March 25, 1898.

ON the morning of the receipt of your despatch No. 2, Circular, of the 10th instant, on the subject of the public sale of slaves in coast towns, I directed instructions to the Vice-Consuls under my superintendence to forward a quarterly return, and to report immediately any instances of the public sale of slaves which occurred in their respective districts during the year 1897. Down to the present I have received replies from Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney and Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot.

In the year 1897, while I was absent in England a case of two slaves being offered for public sale in Dar-el-Baida was brought to Captain Cromie's notice, and he immediately communicated with the Governor, who promised to prevent a recurrence.

Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney reports that there was no public sale of slaves in Mazagan during 1897.

Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot reports that there were several attempts at such sales in Saffi, but they were defeated by the intervention of the British Vice-Consulate.

On two occasions the auctioneers were imprisoned at the request of Mr. Hunot.

On the 7th December, 1897, I read an article in the "Moghreb Al-Aksa," of the 27th November, about a public sale of slaves at Saffi, and I at once forwarded the paper to Mr. Hunot, and called for a report. In due time I received a reply to the effect that the Governor admitted slaves had been sold, but denied that they had been paraded in the streets.

The Governor warned the chief auctioneer that slaves were not to be hawked about the streets, but were to be sold privately, and any disobedience of these orders would be severely dealt with. He tells Mr. Hunot that he has no power to prevent the sale of slaves, the best he can do is to prevent sales being held in public.

Mr. Hunot informs me that the Sultan Mulai Hassan directed the late Kaïd Abdel Khalk, of Saffi, that any interference with slavery was an interference in the religion of the people, and was not to be permitted under any pretence.

I can assure you that all British Consular officers in this district are thoroughly aware of, and sympathise with, the views of Her Majesty's Government with respect to slavery and they do their very best to prevent public sales. Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot is agent for the Anti-Slavery Society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Vice-Consul Hunot to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

Saffi, March 25, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 1, of the 15th instant, transmitting a number of the "Al-Moghreb Al-Aksa," which gives extracts from the Spanish paper "El Cronica" as to some alleged public sales in Saffi of slaves in the months of August, September and October last, and directing me to make an inquiry into the matter and furnish a full report thereon.

In reply, I beg to state that attempts were made to sell slaves in the public market in 1897. On hearing of them the Acting Vice-Consul, Mr. Reid, went immediately to the Kaïd and stopped them. In two instances I went myself to the Kaïd and had the auctioneers arrested. In one case, however, it was found that the auctioneer was not selling the slaves publicly, but was taking them to the appointed place where they were to be sold privately. Sales of slaves were made throughout the year of 1897, but the slaves, as a rule, are taken to the "Sok-el-Ghuzil," where they are examined and disposed of without being paraded as was usual through the town.

Our Kaïd had no Shereefian orders to prevent the sale of slaves. I reminded him that his predecessor had instructions to prevent the public sales. He then said, as he did before, that he had heard that his brother had received such an order, but he had never seen it. He would, however, punish any person who attempted to sell slaves publicly. I believe it would have a good effect if the Kaïd here were to receive a renewal

of the Shereefian orders about the sales. At present he pretends that it is only in deference to my wishes that he will punish the persons attempting to sell the slaves in the public market.

I return, herewith, the paper with notes in its margin, which were obtained from Mr. Fantum, the correspondent of the "Cronica."

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE P. HUNOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 104.

Extract from "Al-Moghreb Al-Aksa" (Tangier Chronicle and Morocco Gazette) of November 27, 1897.

Notes by the Correspondent of the "Cronica."

SLAVE-DEALING on the coast ports has been dull during the summer season, probably owing to the rebellious movement in the Sûs districts, whence the poor slaves are generally brought to the northern markets. Besides, intending purchasers are not keen to obtain now fresh slaves, owing to want of means and comparative scarcity and high price of food.

The following is a report of the sales during the months of August, September, and October last, communicated to our local colleague "La Crónica," by its Saffi correspondent.

August 6-8: During these three days a woman and three children were paraded about the streets, accompanied by a public auctioneer, who cried the prices and conditions of the human chattels as follows:—

"The female slave, 39 dollars; the elder boy, 25 dollars; the middle one, 22 dollars; the baby, not yet bidden for."

Later on the bids augmented, and we were told that the whole family, including the father, who had not been taken out for show, reached the amount of 220 dollars. However, this price not being satisfactory, the "lot" was bought in by the vendor, who was acting on account of a Governor in the interior, to whom the slave family was sent some days after, probably to look for a better market.

On the 17th another negress was offered for sale, and finally changed hands for 66 dollars.

On the 25th a girl of about 8 years old was sold for 23 dollars, but the history of this sale had its sequel thirty days after. The mother of the girl, who lives in the interior, complained of her grievance to her owner for having taken her daughter from her, but he took no notice of the complaint. She then applied to a Shereef, who, interfering on her behalf, succeeded in obtaining the consent of the owner to allow the woman to go in search of her daughter, and, moreover, he gave her some money and a letter of recommendation to that effect.

Not sold here at all.

Changed hands privately.

Does not know whether publicly or not.

On her arrival at Saffi she soon found out who was the possessor of her child, and having applied to him, he replied that he did not feel inclined to part with his little slave, whom he had legally bought. After three days of untiring exertions, the poor mother was happy enough to obtain the delivery of her daughter in exchange for 35 dollars, and as she had nothing else to give, the "generous" owner of the child contented himself with only 12 dollars profit.

There was another public sale on the 21st September of a man, with his wife and child. Fortunately, they were all bought by one of the bidders, who paid 80 dollars for the lot, and thus far they have not been separated, but they may be in a future transaction.

On the 8th October a woman and three children (two girls and a boy), the youngest still suckling, were placed under the hammer. There were bids for either one or the other members of the family, altogether reaching the amount of 210 dollars. The seller, however, held out for a higher price, and, alleging he could obtain a much better market in Fez, he withdrew his merchandise, much to the satisfaction of the coloured onlookers, who, on seeing the poor slaves passing, cursed the owner, and condemned with indignation the villanous act of separating the poor children from their unfortunate parents.

On the 12th October the sale of a negress for 65 dollars took place.

On the 27th of same month another sale was effected. The slaves were a woman with her two sons (one was 6 years of age and the other but a few months old), who, after having been offered to the public for three days, were at last disposed of for 55 dollars. When this sale commenced the bids were mostly for the elder boy, one of the offers reaching 20 dollars. The purchaser was asked to add 5 dollars more, which he declined, and thus the poor mother was spared the heartrending grief of being separated from her children.

Many and bitter are the comments made by the author of this report, who, during many years has supplied different organs of the press with trustworthy information on the still unchecked subject of a nefarious trade, that, to say the least, is a disgraceful reproach to the Christian nations, who represent the principles of civilization and justice in the so-called Empire of Morocco, which forms one of the shores of the Straits of Gibraltar.

Cannot affirm.

Saw them in the street, but were not cried.

Privately.

Was told of it, but did not see them.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 6.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

War Office, April 4, 1898.

WITH reference to your letters of the 18th and 23rd February last, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit to you herewith copies of two letters which have been received from Captain and Honourable Major A. Gybbon-Spilsbury, Thames Division, Submarine Miners, Royal Engineers (Militia), in reply to demands for an explanation as to his proceedings.

Orders have now been given that this officer is not to be allowed to take part in the annual training of his corps, pending his furnishing more satisfactory explanations.

I am to request that you will be so good as to supply Lord Lansdowne with any further information concerning the results of the judicial inquiry on the men belonging to the crew of Major Spilsbury's vessel who were taken prisoners.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. KNOX.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Captain Spilsbury to War Office.

37, Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, London,
March 24, 1898.

Sir,

WITH reference to your communication of the 22nd February, which has only just reached me on my return to England, I beg to inform you that the statements contained in the War Office letter attached thereto are not borne out by facts.

1. The arms and ammunition which I shipped on board my yacht were not stated to be for India.

2. This cargo was not landed by me in the Sûs, nor in any country where any prohibition exists with regard to arms.

I am not aware of having transgressed any of the rules laid down for the observance of militia officers when visiting a foreign country, during my recent visit to Sûs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GYBBON SPILSBURY, Major,
T.D.R.E. (M).

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Captain Spilsbury to War Office.

Sir,

Tilbury Fort, March 28, 1898.

IN reply to your request for further information as to my application for leave, dated the 28th February last, I beg to inform you as follows:—

Early in February it was my intention to return from a cruise on the Sûs coast to England; my yacht was caught in a heavy gale, and for five days we were unable to make headway against it, finally, our coal being exhausted, we had to proceed to Arcife, Lanzarote, from which place there is only a fortnightly mail to Las Palmas and thence to England. I was unable to communicate from there and ask for an extension of leave, and therefore decided to run for Gibraltar.

Being in quarantine my movements were greatly hampered; and before I could get coals and fresh provisions and finally reach Gibraltar, the period of my leave had expired.

I immediately on my arrival reported myself to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Gibraltar, and posted an application for extension of leave. I remained in Gibraltar where the yacht required repairs before crossing the Bay of Biscay, expecting an answer to my application, which did not, however, come, and I finally decided to return overland by rail, reaching London on the 23rd instant.

I beg to submit that under the circumstances I could not have acted otherwise than

I did, and that the delay in my return to this country was unavoidable and due to circumstances entirely beyond my control.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GYBBON SPILSBURY, Major,
T.D.R.E. (M).

No. 106.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 22.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 6, 1898.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 31 of the 2nd instant, I have received letters, dated the 31st ultimo, from Legation Interpreter, in which he states that prisoners will be surrendered and sent by sea here. A heavy indemnity will apparently be demanded by Moorish Government.

A good effect would be produced if Major Spilsbury were arrested in England under a warrant from here.

Would this be possible?

No. 107.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 29.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 6, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 42 of the 23rd ultimo, forwarding Mr. Consul MacLean's report upon the losses sustained by British merchants and their certificated agents during the recent visit of the Moorish army to M'zab.

I have to inform you that the course which you propose to take is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 108.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 7, 1898, 6.10 P.M.

GLOBE Venture.

I have received your telegram of the 6th instant.

Please report whether the offence stated in the warrant against Major Spilsbury is one falling within the provisions of "The Fugitive Offenders' Act, 1871," sec. 9.

Major Spilsbury has been forbidden to take part in his corps' annual training owing to the unsatisfactory nature of his explanations to the War Office.

No. 109.

Foreign Office to Mr. H. J. Sedway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 7, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, respecting the circumstances under which British trade was carried on during the years 1880-81, and part of 1882 on the north-west coast of Morocco.

In reply, I am to inform you that your impressions in regard to the matter are erroneous, that the Agreement came to between Her Majesty's Government and the Sultan of Morocco, is to the effect stated in my letter of the 25th ultimo, and that Her Majesty's Government cannot sanction or countenance any trading operations by British subjects in the district in question unless they should be in conformity with the conditions of that Agreement.

With reference to your request to be allowed access to papers at this Office bearing on the subject, I am to inform you that the text of the Agreement of 1895 will be found in the "Map of Africa by Treaty," vol. iii, p. 1064; but that it would be contrary to rule to give access to the correspondence of this Department.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 110.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 23.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 8, 1898.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 15.

The charge against Major Spilsbury is under Articles 107 and 108 of the Morocco Order in Council. A year's imprisonment can be imposed on conviction under former Article. Hard labour is not made mention of in Article 107, but imprisonment might be perhaps defined as rigorous imprisonment, and then come under Act of 1881, section 9. I would send home the warrant should your Lordship hold this opinion.

In a letter, dated 3rd instant, Legation Interpreter reports having received replies of the Sultan, and was starting on his return to Tangier next day. He was assured by the Vizier that letters would be sent immediately for prisoners to be dispatched to Mogador, whence a steamer would convey them to Tangier.

No. 111.

Foreign Office to War Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 8, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter marked Confidential of the 4th instant, inclosing communications from Captain and Hon Major A. Gybbon Spilsbury, and asking for further information concerning the results of the judicial inquiry on the men who formed part of the crew of the yacht "Tourmaline" who were taken prisoners by the Moorish authorities.

In reply, I am to transmit, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copies of further correspondence which has taken place with regard to Major Spilsbury's proceedings,* from which you will perceive that these men are still in the hands of the Moorish authorities, but that the latest telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, dated the 6th instant, states that he is advised that the prisoners will be surrendered and sent by sea to Tangier.

The previous telegrams from Sir A. Nicolson, herewith inclosed, show the serious light in which Major Spilsbury's action is regarded by the Sultan of Morocco, and the difficulties which have been encountered, and which may still be met with before the prisoners are finally released.

I am also to draw your attention to the statements which accompany the despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels of the 15th February last, showing the large amount of arms and ammunition which were taken on board the "Tourmaline." It is understood that a small portion of these were landed on the coast of Morocco and have fallen into the hands of the Moorish authorities; and, although the major part of the consignment has been brought back to Antwerp and is now being discharged at that port, there is little doubt that Major Spilsbury intended to dispose of the whole of it to the tribes in the Sûs district of Morocco had not the authorities of that country prevented him.

Lord Lansdowne will, no doubt, consider that the explanations which Major Spilsbury has hitherto offered are quite beside the mark.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* Nos. 37, 41, 44, 45, 49, 56, 62, 72, 79, 83, 89, 77, 78, 86, and 106.

No. 112.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture.

I have received your telegram No. 23 of the 8th instant.

It appears uncertain whether the warrant issued against Major Spilsbury can be held to fall within the provisions of Article 9 of the Fugitive Offenders' Act.

It will, however, be desirable for you to send the warrant, and the Home Office and Law Officers will be consulted on the matter.

Foreign Office, April 9, 1898.

No. 113.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 31.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 9, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 44 of the 28th ultimo reporting your impressions of the position of affairs in regard to the detention of the "Tourmaline" prisoners by the Moorish authorities.

I have to inform you that I concur in the views which you express in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 114.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture Case.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 16, I have to report that the warrant against Major Spilsbury is being forwarded by the bag to-day.

Tangier, April 11, 1898.

No. 115.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 47.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 6, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two Reports, dated respectively the 29th and 31st ultimo, which I have received from Mr. Irwin, relative to the surrender of the European prisoners.

I may mention that the Moorish steamer, the "Hassanee," left here the day before yesterday for Mogador, and I trust that she will transport the prisoners here. I am afraid that the proposal of the Grand Vizier to place the men in irons, which, happily, seems to have been abandoned, would lead one to infer that originally they were submitted to this humiliation.

I do not gather clearly from Mr. Irwin's later Report whether the demands of the Moorish Government are still maintained as to the indemnity and other conditions. This point will be cleared up on the arrival of the communications which Mr. Irwin will bring with him.

I do not know if it would be possible to effect the arrest in England of Major Spilsbury on my warrant under the Fugitive Offenders Act, but, if it were so, this action would go far to satisfying the Moorish Government and others of our determination to bring all the offenders to justice.

I have warned the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General of the probability of the prisoners arriving here within the next few days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 115.

Mr. Irwin to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

Marakesh, March 29, 1898.

AT an interview I had with Cid Abdelkrim this afternoon, he informed me that the original reply, as in my previous despatches, is to be sent, also a second letter, stating that the Moorish Government, from regard to Her Majesty's Government and you, is sending orders to have the prisoners taken in Sûs conveyed to Tangier in irons, but the Government will make the following claims and conditions:—

1. That the Syndicate and prisoners are to be prosecuted and severely punished.
2. That the Moorish Government claims from the Syndicate the sum of 250,000 dollars for expenses incurred up to the present, and whatever further expenses may be incurred until the matter is settled.
3. An indemnity will be claimed by the Moorish Government from the Syndicate, the amount of this indemnity to be agreed upon by the two Governments.
4. That the Sûs men carried away on the "Tourmaline" are to be delivered up to the Moorish Government.

5. That the Syndicate make a formal promise that neither it nor any of its members will make any further attempt of this description in Sûs, as, should they do so, the Moorish Government will refuse to give them up again.

I explained to Cid Abdelkrim that the prisoners being sent in irons would produce a very bad effect, not only in England, but in every civilized country. He said the Government would be willing to send them without irons if I would give a written guarantee that the men would not try to escape. I explained to him that it was impossible to make any such promise, as I had no authorization to do so; and, moreover, as warrants had been issued for their arrest, should any of them succeed in escaping, which was very improbable, they could only leave the country by one of the ports, and they could be arrested before they could embark. Cid Abdelkrim said that the Government only feared that some of them might effect their escape and to escape punishment, and that the British Government would say it could only punish those who were handed over to them, and added that, in the event of any of them escaping, the Moorish Government had no police force to search for and rearrest them.

I told Cid Abdelkrim that imposing all the preceding conditions would mean an indefinite delay in delivering over the prisoners to you, and that I had instructions to leave if satisfactory assurances were not given at once that the prisoners would be sent to Tangier without delay, and in the event of my mission proving fruitless the matter would be serious. He then hastened to say that the orders to convey them to Tangier would be sent at once. I then asked him to inform the Grand Vizier of what I had told him as to the irons. He quite saw that it could not be done, and promised to speak about this point to him, and asked me to repeat what I had said to him to the Grand Vizier at my next interview, and he said he thought the point would not be insisted upon.

Cid Abdelkrim says that the Government holds a document drawn up in Arabic and signed by Major Spilsbury, as Administrator of the Globe Venture Syndicate, freeing the Moorish Government from all responsibility for whatever might happen to the men, goods, or ships of the Syndicate in Sûs. I saw the signature, but could not get the document to read.

In the second letter the Moorish Government maintains its right to detain these prisoners as the Treaty only stipulates for criminal cases and disputes arising between British and Moorish subjects, and does not comprise offences committed against the Government, and Cid Abdelkrim told me that the Government has information from foreign Powers that the intention of the Syndicate was to arm the Sûs tribes to enable them effect their independence, but nevertheless his Government, from consideration to the British Government, will send these men to Tangier as requested.

The Moorish Government demands that all connected with this attempt be severely punished, in order to deter others from making similar attempts.

I am to have another interview with the Grand Vizier to-morrow or the next day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. IRWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 115.

Mr. Irwin to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

Marakesh, March 31, 1898.

I HAD an interview with his Excellency the Grand Vizier this evening, and told his Excellency that Cid Abdulkrim had informed me that the captives were to be sent to Tangier immediately, and I requested that the men be sent without irons, as this would be quite unnecessary if a sufficient guard accompanied them. His Excellency said he should like to do so, but the Government had no security that they would not attempt to escape, and after some further conversation promised that irons would not be put upon them, but that they would be warned that they must not attempt to escape.

His Excellency then asked if the captives should be sent to Tangier by land or whether it would be better to send them by sea, and whether they should be brought to Court. I submitted that it would be better to send them direct and by sea rather than have them paraded through the country and coast towns. His Excellency agreed to this, and said that if the "Hassanee" was not engaged elsewhere she might be ordered to Mogador to convey them to Tangier, and asked if the Vice-Consul at Mogador was to take charge of them or if they should remain in charge of the Government until they reach Tangier. I told his Excellency that as the Government had been requested to send the men to Tangier and deliver them over to you, it might be better if it took entire charge of them until they are delivered over to you. His Excellency was of the same opinion, and said the Governor of Mogador would attend to them until they are embarked.

His Excellency asked me to see him again on Sunday next, and said I might leave on Monday, which I hope to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. IRWIN.

No. 116.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 48.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 8, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a further report which I have just received from Mr. Irwin regarding the surrender of the European prisoners. Mr. Irwin appears to have fulfilled his mission with success, and I should be glad to be authorized to convey to him your Lordship's approval of the manner in which he has carried out his instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Mr. Irwin to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

Marakesh, April 3, 1898.

I WAS granted a final interview by his Excellency the Grand Vizier this afternoon, and received my letters this evening.

His Excellency said that he had to-day received newspapers with the information that the "Tourmaline" had proceeded to some place in Sûs above Erksis to land its cargo there, and asked if I had any information on this point. I assured his Excellency

that I had no news of any such attempt. His Excellency said that both His Majesty the Sultan and himself were greatly perturbed at this news, and he begged me to convey many compliments to you and ask whether the British Government would not stop the Globe Venture Syndicate from persisting in its enterprise, as it is causing the Government much trouble.

I asked his Excellency if orders had been sent to take the captives to Mogador, and when might they be expected in Tangier. His Excellency replied that orders were being sent at once, and that it would take five days for letters to reach El Gilooli, and a few days would be necessary for making arrangements for the road and conveying them to Mogador. The "Hassanee" would be sent to Mogador for them as soon as possible. The captives are to be under the charge of the Governor of Mogador during their stay in that town.

I again impressed upon his Excellency the necessity of witnesses and evidence. His Excellency at first demurred to sending witnesses, but upon pointing out how essential they are, he at last agreed to send some with the rifles and cartridges seized, and added that the Captain of the "Hassanee" would be able to give evidence that the "Tourmaline" fired upon the "Hassanee" and boats.

I am leaving to-morrow for Tangier via Dar-al-Baida.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. IRWIN.

No. 117.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 78.)

My Lord,

Brussels, April 13, 1898.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 30 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul-General Perry, transmitting evidence of the discharge at Antwerp of 4,210 rifles from the steam yacht "Tourmaline." Mr. Perry adds that the ammunition has not yet been discharged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 117.

Consul-General Perry to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Antwerp, April 12, 1898.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 9 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the inclosed letter certifying to the discharge of 4,210 rifles from the yacht "Tourmaline" has been transmitted to me by the Director of Customs here. The "munitions de guerre" alluded to in the last paragraph of the letter are the ammunition referred to in my despatch No. 12 of the 1st instant, which, I am informed by the agents of the "Tourmaline," has not yet been discharged owing to difficulties raised by the authorities here with regard to receiving such dangerous merchandize in the warehouse of this town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. R. DE COURCY PERRY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 117.

M. Mator to Director of Customs, Antwerp.

M. le Directeur,

Anvers, le 7 Avril, 1898.

EN réponse à votre apostille du 7 Avril courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que les 4,210 fusils et autant de baïonnettes importés par le yacht "Tourmaline," le 31 Mars dernier, ont été déclarés en consommation le 2 courant,

suivant déclaration de libre entrée d'Anvers, 1^{er} Bureau, délivrée au nom de Ruys et Cie.

D'après les renseignements que j'ai recueillis, ces marchandises ont été expédiées par chemin de fer, sur une fabrique d'armes à Liège. Quant aux munitions de guerre, elles se trouvent encore à bord du yacht, amarré au No. 28 des bassins.

Le Contrôleur intérimaire,
(Signé) MATOR.

No. 118.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 33.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 15, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 45 of the 28th ultimo, forwarding Reports from Her Majesty's Consular officers at Dar-al-Baida and Saffi in regard to the alleged public sale of slaves in the coast towns of Morocco during the past year.

It appears from Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot's despatch of the 25th March that the present Kaïd at Saffi has no Shereefian orders to prevent the public sale of slaves, although he acknowledges that such orders were received by his predecessor.

I request that you will make a representation to the Moorish Government with a view to obtain from them a renewal of the orders in question, and I concur in your proposal to suggest to them that similar orders should be sent to the Governors of the other Moorish coast towns.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 119.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture Case.

Tangier, April 16, 1898.

I have to report that Legation Interpreter has arrived bringing the Sultan's replies. The Grand Vizier has promised that the prisoners shall, without delay, be sent here. A claim is made by the Moorish Government for 250,000 dollars as reimbursement for already incurred expenses; they also claim for any further expenses to which they may be put in the future. They further request an indemnity to be settled between the two Governments subsequently, and they request also that the whole expedition and the Syndicate be prosecuted, and that the Syndicate give an engagement never to again undertake an enterprise of a similar nature. These requests are excessive, and I shall be able, I hope, to show the Moorish Government later that they are unreasonable under the circumstances, and cannot be met. At present, however, since the Moorish Government is much disturbed at what had occurred, and regards the incident in a very serious light, the moment is hardly favourable for discussing them.

No. 120.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 26.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture Case.

Tangier, April 21, 1898.

The Moorish authorities wish to be informed whether the four natives taken away by the "Tourmaline" were landed on Morocco coast. I have been informed that they were, but perhaps definite information on the subject might be gained from the Syndicate.

No. 118*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 49.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 11, 1898.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 16 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a warrant against Major Gybbon Spilsbury, charging him under Article 107 of the Morocco Order in Council of 1889, with the offence of smuggling into the Moroquine territories.

Should Major Spilsbury be arrested, he would also be charged under Article 108 of the Morocco Order in Council, and a separate warrant is ready for execution under that head in case he should arrive in Morocco.

I may mention that I notice in a letter I have received from Mr. Irwin that the Moorish Government allude to his having fired at the Moorish steamer and at her boats. It is true that the captain of the "Hassanie" states that the shots were fired overhead, more with the view of intimidating than of doing actual injury; but these acts, to which I presume the captain of the "Hassanie" would be prepared to give testimony, seem to constitute, taken in conjunction with the minatory signals which Major Spilsbury hoisted, at least an intention of resisting by force the measures which the Moorish authorities were taking in their own waters for the prevention of illegal acts. I am unable to discover in the Order in Council any Article which deals with an offence of this nature, and I do not know of any Act which authorizes me to charge Major Spilsbury with resistance, or threatened resistance, to the authority of the Moorish Government. I suppose his action can merely be regarded as an aggravation of the offence with which he is charged, and not as a separate actionable offence.

As I have mentioned in former despatches, the Moorish Government lay great stress on their contention that the chief object of Major Spilsbury and his companions was to arm the tribes, and thus enable them to rebel against the sovereignty of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 118*.

Warrant.

In Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Court for Morocco, held at Tangier.—Criminal Jurisdiction.

Tuesday, March 15, 1898.

To Philip Jarrett Sterwin and other Officers of this Court:

A. GYBBON SPILSBURY, of the steam-ship "Tourmaline," Major of Engineer Militia, has this day been charged on oath for that he, on or about the 12th day of January, 1898, on the Sûs coast, in the Empire of Morocco, did unlawfully smuggle certain goods into Moroquine territory, contrary to the provisions of section 107 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889."

Therefore you are hereby commanded in the name of Her Majesty Queen Victoria to apprehend the said Major A. Gybbon Spilsbury, and to bring him before this Court to answer to the said charge, and to be further dealt with accordidg to law.

(Seal.) (Signed) A. NICOLSON,
Her Majesty's Consul-General.

No. 121.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 27.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 21, 1898.

PRIVATE information has reached me that possibly Henry Grey, one of the prisoners, is required by the London police. Could your Lordship cause inquiries to be made at Scotland Yard on the subject?

No. 122.

Foreign Office to the Globe Venture Syndicate.

Foreign Office, April 21, 1898.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that, in connection with the negotiations for the release of the prisoners seized by the Moorish authorities on the occasion of the visit of the "Tourmaline" to the Sûs coast, the Moorish Government have inquired of Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier whether the four natives taken away by that vessel have been re-landed on the coast of Morocco.

As Sir A. Nicolson has no precise information on this point, I am directed to inquire whether you can furnish particulars which will enable him to return an answer to this inquiry.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 123.

*Globe Venture Syndicate to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)*77, Throgmorton House, Copthall Avenue, London,
April 22, 1898.

My Lord,

IN reply to your communication of the 21st April I am instructed to inform your Lordship that the four natives referred to in that communication were re-landed on the coast of Sûs before "Tourmaline" left.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. ALLEN, Secretary.

No. 124.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 23, 1898, 4.30 P.M.

GLOBE Venture.

I have received your telegram No. 26 of the 21st instant.

I am informed by Syndicate that the four natives were put ashore on the Sûs coast before the departure of the "Tourmaline."

No. 125.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 52.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 16, 1898.

MR. IRWIN, Interpreter to this Legation, returned here yesterday from Morocco city, and brought with him the replies of the Sultan in regard to the surrender of the European prisoners who were captured at Arksis in the month of January last. I have the honour to transmit translations of the above-mentioned documents.

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Your Lordship will observe that the Grand Vizier informs me, in the second communication, that the prisoners will be sent to Tangier for delivery to me, and he answered Mr. Irwin, the day prior to the departure of the latter, that orders would be at once dispatched to Kaïd Gilooly to send the captives to Mogador, whence they would be conveyed in the Moorish steamer, the "Hasanee," to this place. As Mr. Irwin left Morocco city on the 4th instant, I am daily expecting the arrival of the prisoners.

The Grand Vizier formulates several demands on the part of the Moorish Government, which, I presume, it will be difficult to satisfy. Mr. Irwin tells me that the Grand Vizier was much perturbed at what had occurred, and, though very friendly, was at first strongly opposed to surrendering the prisoners. His Excellency considered that the object of the enterprise was to arm the tribes against the sovereignty of the Sultan, and declined to regard it as a commercial undertaking, even of an illicit nature. The Moorish Government have been required on several occasions to pay indemnities for injuries done to the persons or properties and interests of foreigners, and they, doubtless, argue that if they are made responsible for the acts of unruly subjects, such as the Riff tribes, they can demand compensation for illegal action taken by British subjects in defiance of the warnings both of their own Government and of the Government of this country.

I would propose, on the arrival of the prisoners, to address a note to the Grand Vizier expressing satisfaction at the surrender of the captives, and informing him that I have transmitted to your Lordship the communications which he made to me. It would be advisable, I think, to allow some little time to elapse before dealing with their contents, and, in the meanwhile, I would endeavour, through private channels, to explain to his Excellency the difficulties in the way of satisfying his demands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 125.

Reply of the Sultan of Morocco to Request for Surrender of Prisoners.

IN the matter of the Englishmen who went to Sûs with arms and ammunition, it is apparent to every intelligent person that it is a most grave occurrence, and has caused great vexation and regret, and the Moorish Government has the certainty that the British Government—the powerful, the friendly—and its respected Minister, regret the incident, as also that they will not acquiesce in it, nor allow that this be said of any of its subjects, by reason of the friendship existing between the two powerful friendly nations, which requires that the respect of each be maintained by the other, contrary to the action of the Company which has equipped these invaders.

When the Shereefian Government first heard that this Company sought to go to that place, it rejected the idea that they could intend such a thing, much less that they would do it; as to going there with a quantity of arms and ammunition, it was impossible to imagine such an event. When the Government was certain that the Company had done so, it sent a protest (or warning) through the British Government, and disavowed all responsibility for its acts, to restrain it from its intentions, as it was not an easy matter, nor was it a commercial enterprise as comprised in the Treaty, but was a serious attack, and outside the rules existing between nations. Moreover, this was done after repeated warnings from its Government; but no attention was paid to these warnings, and it prepared itself with munitions of war, and sent them in a steamer armed with a cannon and a large quantity of rifles, with men sent by the Company, and entered, independently, into a serious breach, intending thereby to commit a dangerous act to the detriment of the Shereefian Government, and had it not happened that the Government had a force there, and rectified the matter of those who landed from the steamer, and the arms they disembarked—which were immediately distributed among the natives, who fought the Government with them to the extent of their power—they would have landed all the arms they brought, and distributed them among the Kabilas there, and the affair would have become very difficult by reason of their being strengthened for fighting the Government, and it would have been necessary for the Government to make great preparations and go to great expense.

The respected intelligent Minister will look at this occurrence, to which no parallel has ever occurred, in a just manner, and consider the affair in which they were engaged, whether they have left thereby any reason for speaking for them, much less for requesting evidence, as there can be no stronger proof than their capture under these conditions; and his Excellency will consider what great harm to the Shereefian Government will be founded upon what is stated, as in your previous letters asking that these men be returned; and other bad people like them might undertake similar enterprises, and would rely upon this precedent for recovering those who are caught; and you will consider also the great expense and trouble which will be caused thereby to the Government in pursuing and stopping others like them, and this will be ceaseless.

The Government still pursues the remainder who escaped in the steamer, and who came for the purpose of an attack; also those of His Majesty's subjects who escaped with them; and the Government claims the punishment of the Company which dispatched and furnished them with arms, &c.; and that it be made to pay the expenses caused to the Government by this event, as it exceeded the bounds of commerce, and acted independently, and departed from the decision of its Government, with the intention of fighting the Government of the place where they landed, and caused the Government enormous expense. Now, if the Company is left in its present state, it will not cease from looking to do what it wants, and will watch for an unguarded moment at another time to send others again. Possibly the Government may be then engaged in some important matter, and something may happen whose remedy may be difficult. And the Shereefian Government only demands that justice which the powerful Government of Great Britain and its respected Minister will be far from gainsaying. The Moorish Government had the intention of representing this matter to the glorious British Government, through your Excellency, O friend, upon concluding this expedition, and when it would be resident in the city, and requesting that justice be obtained from this Company; but when your interpreter came to the camp about the matter, it became necessary to explain the facts of the case in a reply to you, and inform you of what was intended should be done. It is expected that your Excellency will not fail to attend to this matter, and will help to produce a satisfactory result.

And as to the allusion to the utility of opening a port at that place, the Government is very watchful to open the doors that are to its advantage, as far as is possible, and is very regardful to the increase and the arrangement of the measures which are advantageous to it, in the past and in the future, wherever may be, and pays the greatest attention always to the arrangement of the necessary measures to attain its objects, following after things that tend to good wherever they may go, but giving attention first to the measures which will facilitate them, and avoiding all the evils which are only known to those who have to encounter their difficulties, and possibly you are aware of this.

Inclosure 2 in No. 125.

Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.)

10 Kande, 1315 (April 2, 1898).

YOUR letter has reached, O intelligent friend, informing us of what your interpreter, the intelligent, Irwin had written to you of his having reached the camp, the happy end of his interview with us, and of the good reception accorded to him, which was suitable from regard to your Excellency, and you express your thanks for this. You renew your request that attention be given to the matter of sending to Tangier the captives taken on the Sûs coast, that they may be prosecuted as stated by your said interpreter, who has come to Court by your instructions, and you counsel us in a friendly spirit to accede to your views, as it is in conformity with the Treaties. We brought this to the cognizance of His Majesty (compliments), and he took note of it, and he instructed me to reply to you that the good reception accorded to your interpreter was due to him, as it is in reality accorded in fact to the powerful British Government and to its respected Minister, and with regard to the good relations firmly established between the two Governments.

As to the prisoners, a reply to you had then been already issued, O intelligent

one, to your previous letter regarding them, which was brought by your said interpreter.

In this reply, which he takes a clear statement is given of their object, and of the objects of the Company that sent them, and a statement of the rights of the Government against them, and of which it is not thought you are unaware, O intelligent one, and as to your statement, O intelligent one, that the Treaty decides that any of your subjects can only be prosecuted through your authorities, this in itself is correct, save that it is, if two persons dispute, and one of them is a Moghrebin subject and the other a British subject, or the contrary, the Treaty says. If the plaintiff is a British subject and the defendant a Moorish subject, the Governor of the place or the Cadi, according as the case may appertain to their respective Courts, shall alone judge the case. Therefore, if the plaintiff is a British subject, he will send his case to the Governor or Cadi, as the case may be, through his Consul or Deputy Consul, who can be present in the Court where the case is tried, and similar, in the case of the plaintiff being a Moorish subject and the defendant a British subject, he will bring his complaint through the Moorish Governor or Cadi to the Court, and the Consul or his deputy will settle the case, and the Governor, Cadi, or their deputy shall be present if he or they desire at the time of the settlement of the case. If the plaintiffs, British or Moorish, are dissatisfied with the decision of the Governor, Cadi, Consul-General, or Consul (according as the case may appertain to their respective Courts), he shall have a right of appeal to the Moorish Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, or to Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

There is no resemblance between this present case and those laid down in the Treaty which does not allow its being adduced as a reason why the Government should not deal with them, or should return them to Tangier. When we received your second letter, we brought it to the knowledge of His Majesty (compliments), and he instructed me to reply to you that the clear truth, which none can deny, is as in our above-mentioned reply. But when His Shereefian Majesty regarded the honour of the respected British Government, and knew well that it would not fail to show all attention to restraining this Company and others similar, and punish them sufficiently, and do the justice to this Shereefian Government, which will be stated, and which will restrain all others who may possibly seek to do likewise, His Majesty agreed to send these prisoners to be prosecuted in a suitable manner in Tangier through some one who will be appointed by the Moorish Government, and through your Excellency, the wise counsellor, with the condition that these prisoners be punished as they deserve for this abominable act, that it be a warning to others, and such acts are done by such as hold life in light estimation, and risk their lives and property to loss and death, and that the Company which looked to equip these men, and aided them with its money to start dissension against the Government in its dominions, and helped to shed much blood, and caused great expense, and whose object was no other, as is well known, to all be punished to the double of this; and had not the Government at the time been prepared on that coast when it heard of this, the matter would have been more serious still.

No intelligent person could imagine that it could be carried into effect, for many apparent reasons, and that the Company be compelled to pay the expenses caused to the Government in sending the force which is stationed there, the expenses incurred during its stay there, namely, 250,000 dollars, besides the further expenses which will be incurred during the remainder of its stay there in the future until the matter is settled, and that it be made to pay an indemnity, the amount of which will be agreed upon by the two Governments, over and above the said expenses, as a punishment for this abominable act, which wise men would account impossible, and they are threatened that if they look to do such a thing again the punishment will be doubled, and if any of them are captured they will not be returned to them, and the Moorish Government will deal with them as it pleases, because punishment (and a punishment to serve as a warning to others), and compelling them to pay the expenses and an indemnity is useless against them, because the Government does not intend to be always confronting them in their corruption, and that they return the Sabooya men they took with them on the steamer. Orders have been sent to the Kaïd-el-Gilooly to send these prisoners for them to be transported to Tangier, through the Commissioner of our Lord, Cid-el-Hadj Mohammed Torres. And the Moorish Government has thus paid every attention to the Government of Great Britain the powerful, and to your Excellency the respected, as it has agreed to your request to send the prisoners. There only

remains for you to discharge the just rights of this Shereefian Government, and its condition as stated above. And it is expected that you will do everything to help to accomplish the results in a manner that will be pleasing by the help of Allah.

And may you remain, &c.

(Signed)

HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 126.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 53.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 19, 1898.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 27 of the 4th instant, relative to the claims of Messrs. Dehn and Heine against the Moorish Government, in consequence of the disturbances in 1896 in the M'zab district, I have the honour to report that in October last, a renewed representation was made by the Diplomatic Body for a speedy settlement of all such claims. Hitherto I regret to say the representations, both collective and individual, have been without any practical result; the Moorish Government merely replying that they are actively engaged in devising means for satisfying the demands of foreign merchants. The matter will, I believe, be brought to the attention of the Grand Vizier by the German Minister, during his visit to the Court, and I am also again addressing the Moorish Government on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 127.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 28.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 29, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case.

I have to report that the prisoners have arrived here and, pending the arrival of the Chief Justice of Gibraltar to whom I have telegraphed, will be lodged in the prison at the Consulate. The German subject I am handing over to his Legation.

No. 128.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 102.)

My Lord,

Brussels, April 29, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 78 of the 2nd instant respecting the return of the steam-yacht "Tourmaline" to Antwerp, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul-General Perry, reporting that the vessel left Antwerp on the 26th instant for London, having previously transhipped her cargo of ammunition and forwarded it to Gravesend, owing to difficulties raised by the local authorities of the port of Antwerp.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Consul-General Perry to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 18.)

Sir,

Antwerp, April 27, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the steam-yacht "Tourmaline" cleared from this port

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X

yesterday at 4 p.m. for London. Owing to the difficulties which the local authorities placed in the way of the ammunition which the "Tourmaline" carried being landed at Antwerp, the cartridges were previously transhipped and forwarded to Gravesend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. R. DE COURCY PERRY.

No. 129.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture Case.

Tangier, April 30, 1898.

With reference to my telegram No. 28, I have to report that the prisoners have been remanded on bail for fourteen days, 1,000*l.* for Grey and 40*l.* each for the three others. Unless the Syndicate can furnish it, the two sailors may have difficulty in procuring bail.

Further remand may be necessary, as Moorish Government have not yet sent witnesses.

No. 130.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 30, 1898.

REFERRING to my telegram No. 29, I should have added that sureties for amounts mentioned were required for each prisoner in addition to personal bail.

No. 131.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1898.

WITH reference to my letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that, according to a despatch received from Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, a renewed representation was made in October last to the Moorish Government by the foreign Diplomatic Body for a speedy settlement of the claims of all foreign merchants who suffered loss in consequence of the disturbances in 1896 in the M'zab district.

No practical result has yet been obtained, but Sir A. Nicolson believes that the matter will again be brought to the attention of the Grand Vizier by the German Minister during the visit which he will shortly make to the Moorish Court, and Sir A. Nicolson is himself again addressing the Moorish Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 132.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 51.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 20, 1898.

THE Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires informed me to-day that he had presented a claim to the Moorish Government on account of the piratical attack on a Portuguese vessel last year, in which the ship and cargo were lost, and some of the crew detained as captives for a considerable period by the Bocoyan tribe. The amount of the claim was 250,000 fr., and he had requested that payment should be made within a month.

M. d'Oliviera told me that he had fixed a time limit, as the French Legation had received payment for a similar claim by return of post, and his Government considered that the present case should be settled with equal expedition. In the event of non-compliance, M. d'Oliviera seemed to foreshadow some pressure in the shape of a naval demonstration.

I learn that the Italian Minister has simultaneously presented a claim for a piratical attack on an Italian vessel to the amount of 165,000 fr.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 133.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 55.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 21, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke relative to renewed steps on the part of the French authorities to obtain Riffian recruits for the Algerian army.

The Spanish Minister gave me, a day or two ago, similar information, but said that he was obliged to remain quiescent in the matter owing to the political situation in Spain, although he was of opinion that the line pursued by the French authorities should be a matter for consideration among the Powers who were interested in the maintenance of the *status quo* on the Mediterranean seaboard.

The Sultan's Deputy paid me a visit yesterday, and I asked his Excellency whether he had any information as to the movement among the Bocoyans. He confirmed what Mr. Bewicke has reported, but added that a considerable section of the tribe was opposed to the enlistment project. Cid Mohamed Torres further told me that the Sherceefian Expedition was engaged in organizing assistance from other Riff tribes, preparatory to inflicting on the Bocoyans the punishment with which it had been charged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)

Sir,

Tetuan, April 19, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that there has been a large number of Bocoyans here lately, among whom I understand was the chief man of the tribe.

I am informed that several members of Cid Dadi's family have been here, but left on the 18th instant by steamer for Gibraltar.

I am further informed that the French Consular Agent is busy collecting a fresh batch of recruits to send to Oran, and that he has been lodging some of the Bocoyans in a stable he hires.

The French Consular Agent's office appears to be a regular place of call for all Riffians, and it is commonly said that the Bocoyans look on him as their chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 134.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 31.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, May 2, 1898.

WITH reference to the four natives taken by the "Tourmaline," the Moorish authorities would like to know on what date and at what place on the coast they were landed.

No. 135.

Questions asked in the House of Commons, May 3, 1898.

Mr. Hedderwick,—To ask the First Lord of the Treasury with what offence the members of the crew of the "Tourmaline," arrested by command of the Sultan of Morocco, are charged:

Whether they have now been imprisoned without trial for a period of over eighty days:

Whether, in accordance with existing Treaties, British subjects arrested for alleged offences within the dominions of the Sultan of Morocco must be forthwith handed over to Her Majesty's Consular Representative in Morocco:

And whether the Foreign Office have taken any, and what, steps in accordance with such Treaty rights, if existing, to procure the liberation of the prisoners referred to from Moorish custody, or otherwise to secure for them a speedy and fair trial.

Answer.

The action of the crew of the "Tourmaline" is regarded by the Moorish Government as one not of smuggling, but of an attempt to introduce arms and ammunition into the country for the purpose of raising an insurrection among the Sûs tribes.

The accused persons have been brought for a considerable distance overland by the Moorish authorities, and have been handed over in accordance with the Treaty to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier. They will be charged before Her Majesty's Consular Court at that place under Article 107 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," with smuggling arms and ammunition into the dominions of the Sultan of Morocco.

Her Majesty's Minister has from the start exerted himself to procure the early surrender and trial of the prisoners, and has been throughout in constant communication with Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

No. 136.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 32.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, May 3, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 19:

At Tangier there are no solicitors, but there are several at Gibraltar, where the Syndicate might apply. Assistance in regard to bail might be obtained from Messrs. Pariente, the English bankers here.

No. 137.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Consul-General Perry.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, May 4, 1898, 12.45 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch to Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels No. 18 of the 27th ultimo (inclosed in Sir F. Plunkett's despatch No. 102 of the 29th ultimo), please ascertain and report in what vessel the cartridges were transhipped and the name of the consignees in this country.

No. 138.

Consul-General Perry to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 4, 8.20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Antwerp, May 4, 1898, 6.20 P.M.

GLOBE Venture expedition.

I have received your Lordship's telegram of to-day's date.

The cartridges were transhipped from the "Tourmaline" to the "Bluebell," official No. 99084, and Major Spilsbury was the consignee.

No. 139.

Foreign Office to Globe Venture Syndicate.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 4, 1898.

WITH reference to my letter of the 21st ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state that the Moorish Government have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier a request to be informed of the exact place on the coast of Sûs where the four natives, who were taken away by the "Tourmaline," were relanded, and on what date this was done.

I am to inquire whether you can furnish the particulars desired.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 140.

Foreign Office to the Globe Venture Syndicate.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 4, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has telegraphed that the members of the crew of the "Tourmaline" who had been captured by the Moorish authorities, and have now been surrendered by them, have been brought before Her Majesty's Consular Court at Tangier on a charge of smuggling goods into the Sultan's dominions in violation of the provisions of Article CVII of the Morocco Order in Council, and have been remanded for fourteen days.

In the case of Mr. Henry Grey, personal bail is required in the sum of 1,000*l.*; in that of the three other prisoners 40*l.* is the amount fixed. Sureties for the amounts of the bail mentioned are also required for each prisoner.

Sir A. Nicolson considers that the two sailors may find difficulty in procuring bail unless assisted by the Globe Venture Syndicate, and, as in the absence of necessary witnesses, further remands may be necessary, it is thought that the Syndicate may wish to take some steps towards their assistance in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 141.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 5, 1898.

Mr. Hedderwick,—To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, under British Treaties with Morocco, British subjects have a right to travel, reside, and trade with Morocco:

Whether the Foreign Office informed the Sultan that the crew of the "Tourmaline" went to the Sûs at their own peril; and, if so, why:

And, whether the Sultan's troops attacked and made prisoners some of the crew upon land purchased by Major Spilsbury, a British subject, from the tribes in accordance with all the requirements of the local laws.

Answer.

British subjects have a right to travel, reside, and trade in Morocco, subject to certain conditions which are stated in the Treaties.

The Globe Venture Syndicate having endeavoured ineffectually to obtain the consent of the Moorish Government to open trade with the Sûs tribes, and having, in defiance of the Sultan's prohibition, persisted in the attempt to do so, the Moorish Government addressed a formal protest to the British Minister at Tangier on the subject.

The Syndicate were thereupon warned not to persist in the enterprise, and as they declined to give it up, the Moorish Government were informed that Her Majesty's Government did not in any way countenance or support them.

Information having subsequently been received that the "Tourmaline" had nevertheless been dispatched by the Syndicate with a cargo comprising a large quantity of rifles and ammunition, warning was given to the Moorish Government of the fact.

The "Tourmaline" proceeded to the Sûs coast, and the rifles and ammunition were being sold there in defiance of the Moorish laws, when the Sultan's troops interfered and made prisoners of some of the party.

We have no information that the land on which this took place had been purchased by the Syndicate or their agent.

No. 142.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 5, 1898.

Mr. Hedderwick.—To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether the Sûs country is recognized by the British Government as an integral portion of the dominions of the Sultan of Morocco, or only as territory under his suzerainty or protectorate:

Whether the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Sultan is acknowledged by the tribes of the Sûs:

And, whether the custom-houses of the Sultan have been erected by the Sultan on a line dividing Morocco from the Sûs.

Answer.

The first two questions were answered by the Under-Secretary on the 10th February of the present year, in reply to a question from the hon. Member for King's Lynn.

The exact position of the Moorish custom-houses in the neighbourhood of the Sûs district is not known, but there appears to be at least one custom-house at Agadir on the coast.

No. 143.

Questions asked in the House of Commons, May 5, 1898.

Mr. Hedderwick.—To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether Mr. Beyerle is the only prisoner taken by the Sultan's troops from the "Tourmaline" who has been released and sent home without trial:

Whether Mr. Beyerle is a German, and has been so released at the instance of the German Government:

And, whether the remaining four prisoners are British subjects, and are, as to three of them, merely members of the crew of the "Tourmaline," and as to the fourth, an Englishman travelling for pleasure.

Answer.

One of the prisoners taken by the Moorish authorities was a German subject, and was handed over by Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier to the German Minister on his surrender by the Moorish authorities. This was the legal and necessary course, as he was not subject to British jurisdiction. The question of his subsequent treatment was one for the German Government.

The remaining prisoners are British subjects. It is understood that three of them were members of the crew of the "Tourmaline," and the fourth was one of the party on board of her.

No. 144.

Foreign Office to Customs.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 5, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state, for the information of the Board of Customs, that Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels has reported that the yacht "Tourmaline," which attempted to land arms and ammunition on the coast of Morocco, returned recently to Antwerp for the purpose of re-landing the rifles and cartridges which she had originally taken on board there, but that, owing to difficulties raised by the Belgian authorities at Antwerp as to landing the cartridges, they have been transhipped at that port to another vessel, which conveyed them to Gravesend.

It has been ascertained that the name of this vessel is the "Bluebell," official No. 99,084, and that the ammunition was consigned to Major Spilsbury.

I am to request that steps may be taken to ascertain the amount so consigned and the place where it is now stored.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 145.

Globe Venture Syndicate to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

*Throgmorton House, Copthall Avenue, London,
May 5, 1898.*

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's letter of the 4th instant, I beg to say that the Moors were relanded at a point between Irksis and Boo Safen, but we do not know the date on which this took place.

I also take this opportunity of informing your Lordship that our address is now as above, and not at Palmerston Buildings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

No. 146.

Mr. R. R. Grey to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

My Lord,

Conservative and Unionist Club, Rochdale, May 5, 1898.

I VENTURE to solicit your Lordship's serious perusal of the inclosed cutting from the "Daily Mail," and to suggest the question, "Where is now the honour or the advantage of being a British subject?"

The victim, whose words and tortures are here recorded, is my son.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT R. GREY, *Head Master,
Rochdale Grammar School.*

Inclosure in No. 146.

Extract from the "Daily Mail."

FROM Mr. Henry M. Grey, the Londoner, who is among the Tourmaline captives now at Tangier, one of our Morocco correspondents has, by passing in questions and obtaining written answers, received at last an account of what has happened to the prisoners since their capture.

The account is not pleasant reading for Britishers, for it exhibits subjects of the Queen kept for three months without trial, and subjected to the brutalities of savages whose favourite taunt came to be, "Why don't your Government come and help you?"

Mr. Grey states that besides himself there are two other prisoners who are British subjects, W. Last and A. G. Reya. M. Sabbah and A. C. Beyerle were the other two captives. (Beyerle, being a German, is now free, while the English subjects are at length getting a trial.)

"Kaïd Gilooly's treatment of us," writes Mr. Grey, "was that of a savage. He ordered us to be chained together with an iron collar round the neck of each of us and we were put into a filthy, ragged tent, which had formerly been used as our kitchen. Our feet were shackled with iron shackles used for camels. We had to sleep on our backs on the bare ground, without any covering. The Arabs spat on us, threw stones, and subjected us to all sorts of indignities.

"We suffered very much from thirst, hunger, and heat. Once we were left without water for forty hours, and as regards food, if it had not been for the kindness of Kaïd Mahamed Bilfkuk, who sent us a dish of rice twice a day, and who made sure that we got it by either coming himself or sending one of his officers, we should have been badly off indeed. Kaïd Gilooly's food, when he remembered to send it, was unpalatable to say the least of it.

"The worst of all our punishment was that we were not allowed any communication with the outside world, and could not let our relatives and friends know that we were even alive. Before taking us before Kaïd Gilooly, the savage soldiery pointed their guns at us, and demanded all we possessed. A ring on my finger was too tight. An Arab took out his dagger with the intention of chopping off the finger. I wrenched the ring off with my teeth, nearly dislocating the joints.

"We were made to ride for sixteen days in pairs on camels, chained either by our necks or our feet. Three of us suffered from fever, and in reply to the question, 'How were we tended?' I can simply say we were not tended at all.

"After all our indignities and dangers, the pleasure of reaching a civilized centre like Mogador, was more than one can express. The delight of seeing people in European dress, and hearing one's own language, can only be properly appreciated by those who have lived with such barbarians for a few months. The kind and cordial welcome by Christians and Jews in Mogador was gratifying and touching in the extreme.

"Mr. Johnston, the British Consul, kindly sent us trousers, shirts, towels, soap, of which we were so much in need. If our experiences," concludes Mr. Grey, "should be the means of insuring proper treatment of Europeans who should in future be unfortunate enough to be arrested by the Sultan's troop, we shall not have suffered in vain."

The prisoners, it will be remembered, are now under remand at Tangier.

No. 147.

Customs to Foreign Office.—(Received May 6.)

Sir,

Custom House, London, May 6, 1898.

IN reply to Sir T. H. Sanderson's letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Board of Customs to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the safety cartridges imported into this port by the vessel "Bluebell" from Antwerp on the 25th ultimo, and consigned to Major Spilsbury, are contained in 371 cases, weighing about 15 tons, and are at present stored at Anchor Wharf, Limehouse.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. T. PROWSE.

* Awaiting compliance with the requirements of the Explosives Acts as to marking.

No. 148.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, May 6, 1898, 4 P.M.

GLOBE Venture. I have received your telegram No 31 of the 27th instant.

I am informed by the Syndicate that the Moors were disembarked at a place between Boo Safen and Irksis, but that they are not aware of the precise day.

No. 149.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 33.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, May 6, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Syndicate.

The Attorney-General would like, in addition to witness from Antwerp to prove shipment of arms, to have a witness from manufactory at Surichan to prove purchase of rifles and to identify one sent from Moorish Government which was seized with others on the Sus coast. It would be desirable that witnesses should be sent as soon as possible if they can be procured.

No. 150.

Globe Venture Syndicate to Foreign Office.—(Received May 7.)

*Throgmorton House, Copthall Avenue, E.C.,
May 6, 1898.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and to inform you that the Globe Venture Syndicate are prepared to guarantee bail of 40*l.* for each of the three prisoners, viz., De Rea, Last, and Sabbah, and as guarantee for this bail I beg to inclose a cheque for 120*l.*

I therefore hope that you will be kind enough to communicate by telegraph with Her Majesty's Consul, who doubtless will be able to obtain the release of the prisoners on bail.

I venture to hope that Her Majesty's Consul will be able to obtain a further remand until the arrival from London of a lawyer who will undertake their defence.

The reason for not undertaking bail for Mr. Grey is that he was a passenger on board the "Tourmaline," and had no other connection whatever with the Syndicate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. THORNTON, Chairman.

P.S.—Your letter above mentioned reached this office this morning, probably because it was addressed to the former office.

E. T.

No. 151.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, May 7, 1898.

THE press has published highly coloured accounts as to the manner in which the "Tourmaline" prisoners were treated. It is said that they were not only chained by the neck and shackled, but insulted and robbed. Are you in a position to state whether there is any foundation for the statement, and, if so, whether you have addressed any remonstrance to the Moorish Government? A question on the subject has been put down for next Monday in the House of Commons.

[1069]

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Please state whether you have received any communication from the German Minister on the subject. We understand that the German who was also a prisoner is now on his way to this country.

No. 152.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 34.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture Case.

Tangier, May 7, 1898.

Referring to your Lordship's telegram No. 21: in February last, I received reports of ill-treatment of prisoners at hands of Kaid Gilooly, and I immediately acquainted Moorish Government with the matter, and they replied that orders to treat them with kindness had been sent (see my despatch No. 22 of the 15th February). Mr. Irwin, the Legation Interpreter, also impressed the necessity of good treatment on the Grand Vizier, and was answered that orders to that end had already been sent, and at my request fresh orders were dispatched again. A statement having been made on the 30th April in the Consular Court by one of the prisoners giving details of ill-treatment, I conveyed, on the 2nd May, to the Grand Vizier the complaints which were made, pointing out that such treatment would cause a very bad impression at home, and was most disgraceful.

The statements in press generally coincided with details given by prisoner, and I intended, after trial, to submit to your Lordship a demand that the offending Governor should be punished. The Grand Vizier was anxious, I am sure, that the prisoners should be well treated, and subsequently, I understand, that their treatment improved greatly, and they were in good health when they arrived here.

As stated in my despatch No. 19, I was bound to hand over German prisoner to his authorities, and I was informed by German Minister that he could not prosecute him. He could not come under our jurisdiction, as he was not borne on ship's books.

No. 153.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 56.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 26, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, forwarding Returns as to the public sale of slaves at the coast towns during the year ended the 31st March last.

I will draw the attention of the Grand Vizier to the reports which have been received from Saffi, and request that the orders of the late Sultan in respect to public sales be observed at all coast towns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 59.)

Sir,

Dar-al-Baida, April 22, 1898.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 2 of the 10th March, I have the honour to report that in the month of February last Dr. Grieve, a missionary, informed me that a slave was being publicly exposed for sale in the streets of this town. I at once made representations to the Governor, who stopped the sale, and promised it should not occur again.

Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot has sent me a list, copy of which I inclose, of six cases of public sales which have occurred in Saffi during the quarter ended the 31st March.

The Vice-Consuls at Rabat, Mazagan, and Mogador report that no cases have occurred in their respective districts during that period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

LIST of the Public Sales of Slaves at Saffi during the Quarter ended March 31, 1898.

Name of Seller.	Price.	Sex.	Name of Buyer.
	Dollars.		
Mohammed-ben-Tahra..	45	Female ..	Hamed Cirrou.
Hamed-ben-Tamy ..	30	Ditto ..	Abdelmalk Wazzani.
Kabyla Arab..	100	Woman and child..	Kaid Saïl.
Mohammed-ben-Ohana..	90	Woman ..	Mohamed-ben-Khalifa.
Abelam Misfiwie ..	7	Baby ..	Kaid-ben-Haima.
		(Total, 6.)	

No. 154.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 57.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 27, 1898.

SINCE writing my despatch No. 53 of the 19th instant, I have received a communication from the Grand Vizier relative to the M'zab claims, of which I have the honour to transmit a translation. I have forwarded a copy of the note to Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, and requested him to communicate with British merchants with the view of arriving at a speedy settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.)

12 Kaada, 1315 (April 4, 1898).

YOUR Excellency is aware of our previous reply referring to the allegations made by some merchants of your beloved powerful nation of losses caused to them in the M'zab Kasbah during the late disturbance in the Houz district, informing you of the attention given by the Government to adjusting the measures which would lead to their settlement.

The principal measure was the expedition and its fatigues undertaken to punish portions of the disorderly in the Showia Kabilas, who were the leaders of the alleged pillages in the said Kasbah, and to compel them to submit to the payment of what they had consumed; and as the Shereefian forces returned safely from this expedition and have entered Marakesh, and the time has come to commence the settlement thereof, His Majesty (compliments) has decided that the settlement be attended to in a manner by which the desired object will be attained in an easy manner, and without much correspondence, &c.; which is, that those engaged in trade in this Kasbah on behalf of your said merchants shall meet the Governor of the Kasbah, Kaïd Larbi-ben-Sharki M'zabi, through the Governor of Dar-al-Baida, for them to talk over with him matters regarding a settlement which will not be harmful to either side and will dispense with much correspondence between one side and the other. So, oh friend, please instruct your merchants to do this through your Consul at Dar-al-Baida.

May you continue, &c.
(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 58.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 29, 1898.

THE Moorish steamer "Hassanie" arrived here this morning with the five prisoners who had been captured on the Sus coast on board. I communicated with Cid Mohammed Torres, and the men were landed at 11 A.M. and taken to the British Consulate, where they were handed over to Her Majesty's Consul. The man, de Reya, who had been considered a Portuguese, declared he was born in England, and was a British subject. The warrants against Grey, Last, purser Sabbah, and the above-mentioned de Reya, were read to them, and they were then lodged in the Consulate prison. The German subject, Beierle, was handed over to the German Legation. The four prisoners will be brought before the Chief Justice to-morrow, and, presumably, will be remanded and released on bail, if they are able to find satisfactory recognizances.

The men appeared to be in good health.

I have the honour to transmit copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston; and from which I regret to learn that the prisoners were subjected to harsh treatment by Kaïd Gilooly. I also beg leave to transmit copy of a private letter addressed to me by Mr. Johnston, from which it would appear that affairs in the Sus district are in a disturbed condition.

I have written a note to the Grand Vizier announcing the arrival of the prisoners, and thanking his Excellency for having met the requests which were made to him in regard to their surrender. I did not mention the question of alleged ill-treatment on the part of Kaïd Gilooly, as on this point it may be well to get more detailed information, and it would be better treated at a later date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Mogador, April 21, 1898.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 13 of the 7th March last, on the subject of Major Spilsbury's transactions, I have the honour to report that the four European prisoners and their interpreter arrested in January last by Kaïd Gilooly, were brought into Mogador yesterday under a strong escort and lodged in a portion of Kaïd Ali-bel-Haj's own house.

Soon after hearing this, I called upon Kaïd Ali, in company with M. von Maur, the German Vice-Consul, with the view, mainly, of ascertaining what he proposed to do with these persons.

In reply to my queries, he stated that he had specific orders from the Sultan to ship them on board the "Hassannee," daily expected from Cape Juby, to be conveyed to Tangier, and handed over to Cid-el-Haj Mohammed Torres; that they could not be allowed to leave his house except to go on board the steamer, but that they could receive from me or from M. von Maur any articles such as clothes, &c., of which they might stand in need, and that, of course, there was no objection to his or my seeing them. I asked Kaïd Ali whether he had any objection to their coming under arrest, to make any statement they might wish to place before me. He replied that he could, on no consideration, allow of their leaving his house except to go on board the "Hassannee."

My object being to get these statements from him in presence of a witness, in case such evidence might be required by your Excellency, I left, and subsequently went to see the prisoners.

I cautioned them against saying anything which they might not wish repeated, as it was likely they would be prosecuted for smuggling, and on their complaining that Kaïd Gilooly had kept them in chains for twelve days, and treated them generally with very undue harshness, I suggested that they had better reserve anything they had to say

until they reached Tangier, as no practical object could be gained by bringing it up here.

I ascertained what clothes they wanted, and am supplying them for account of whom it may concern.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 20.)

Sir,

Mogador, April 25, 1898.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 19 of the 21st instant on the subject of the "Tourmaline" prisoners, I have the honour to report that they were this morning conveyed on board the "Hassannee," which I understand is to leave to-day for Tangier.

Mr. Grey asked me on the 20th instant, on the occasion of my going to see them, whether he and his companions could not be handed over to me. I informed him in reply that I had ascertained from Kaïd Ali-bel-Haj that his orders from the Sultan would not permit of such transfer. I endeavoured very carefully to avoid giving the impression that I had in any way demanded such transfer.

Having understood from private correspondence that your Excellency's wish was that they should be conveyed as speedily as may be to Tangier, I saw, indeed, no cause for asking Kaïd Ali to do anything which might lead to delay, which, in the absence of warrants for their arrest by me, might very likely have occurred.

As your Excellency will see from Mr. Grey's letter, which I transmit in original, he misunderstood the facts. I have not thought it necessary to enter into any further explanations with him, limiting any intervention to supplying the prisoners with the few necessities which the Moorish authorities had omitted to provide, and supplying them with a little money for their current expenses for account of whom it may concern.

I saw them again last night for a few minutes in response to a request, which I inclose herewith in original, and was glad to be requested by them to convey to Kaïd Ali-bel-Haj the expression of their thanks for the kind treatment they have received in Mogador.

Except that they have been kept to the house (a wing of the Governor's own residence), they have had full liberty to receive visitors, food—over and above their moona—clothing, books, newspapers, &c.

The young man de Reya, who was originally described as a Portuguese subject, claims to be British born, but I understand that his papers are not here. M. Beyerle, the German, is the son of a Manager in one of the banks in Egypt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

P.S. April 26.—I find the prisoners were not sent on board yesterday. Under present arrangements they are to leave this afternoon.

R. L. N. J.

Inclosure 3 in No. 155.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)

Dear Sir Arthur,

Mogador, April 26, 1898.

THE "Moselle" and "Hassannee" are both leaving to-day direct for Tangier, but as the latter may look in at Saffi I am posting my despatches, re "Tourmaline" prisoners, by the French boat, which promises to be quicker.

The last news from Sus tends to show renewed trouble imminent between Kaïd Gilooly and tribes. He has called for half the fighting men of his own tribes to reinforce him.

The "Hassannee" was received at Erksees, I am told, with a threatening

demonstration from the people there. Incidentally she lost a boat and four men upset at Agloo.

The prisoners are all in good health, I believe, though they had the doctor for some passing ailment.

I understood that no good was to be obtained by my demanding their transfer to me; and, in any case, Kaïd Ali would not have departed from the specific orders he received from Court.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 155.

Sir A. Nicolson to Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, April 29, 1898 (8 Hejja, 1315).

I HAVE delayed, oh friend, acknowledging the communication which you were good enough to send me by Mr. Irwin, until I could announce the safe arrival here of the Europeans who were made prisoners on the Sus coast; and I have now to inform you that they arrived at Tangier this morning, and were delivered over to me; four of them have been placed in the British prison to await their trial, and the fifth, who was a German subject, has been delivered to his own authorities. I have to thank you, oh friend, for having sent the men here; and I am glad that you agreed to my requests in the matter. You have acted in a friendly and fair spirit. I have lost no time in forwarding to my Government translations of the communications with which you favoured me, and I will await their instructions before replying to them. I trust you will send witnesses here who were eye-witnesses of what occurred at Arksis, and who can give evidence as to what was disembarked—this is very essential. Again thanking you, I trust you may continue in peace and prosperity.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 155.

Mr. H. M. Grey to Vice-Consul Johnston.

Sir,

Mogador, April 23, 1898.

AS I am informed by you that you have made application to the Governor of Mogador that I and my fellow captives from the steam-yacht "Tourmaline" should be handed over to you, and that he has refused such application, I beg to formally protest against such action on the part of the Moorish authorities as being contrary to existing Treaties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. GREY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 155.

Mr. H. M. Grey to Vice-Consul Johnston.

Dear Sir,

Mogador, April , 1898.

AS we are informed that we shall probably be taken on board the "Hassannee" very early to-morrow morning, I should be glad if you could, without inconveniencing yourself, give us a call to-night.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. GREY.

No. 156.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 30, 1898.

KAÏD-BEN-SAÏD, Governor of Sallee, paid me a visit this morning, and stated that he had been deputed by the Sultan to represent the Moorish Government in the matter of the enterprise of the Globe Venture Syndicate in the Sus district. He handed me a letter from the Grand Vizier, of which I have the honour to transmit a translation, and requested to be informed what steps would be taken towards satisfying the demands of the Moorish Government as formulated in the letter of the Grand Vizier, inclosed in my despatch No. 52 of the 16th instant.

I told Kaïd-ben-Saïd that I had forwarded a translation of the Vizier's letter to your Lordship, and that I was awaiting instructions. I took the opportunity of mentioning to Ben Saïd that while we were desirous of prosecuting, and, if a conviction were obtained, of punishing those who came before the Tribunal, there were limits imposed by our law which even a Government could not overstep.

He replied that he was not authorized to discuss any legal matters, but merely to treat the question diplomatically, and he inquired what would be done in regard to reimbursing the Moorish Government for the expenses to which they had been, and might in future be, put, and also with respect to the indemnity.

I told him I was not in a position as yet to discuss these points.

Your Lordship will observe that in the inclosed letter from the Grand Vizier, his Excellency appears desirous of establishing that the prisoners were surrendered conditionally. No promise or intimation, direct or indirect, has been given to the Moorish Government that any of the conditions mentioned will be fulfilled. The surrender of the prisoners was demanded as a Treaty right.

Kaïd-ben-Saïd asked if the Moorish Government could be represented by counsel at the trial, and he was informed that there would be no objection to a counsel holding a watching brief. I impressed strongly on Ben Saïd the necessity of eye-witnesses of the occurrences at Arksis being sent to Tangier, and I have sent an express courier to Court reiterating my requests on this point.

The prisoners were brought before the Chief Justice this afternoon. Mr. Grey, who was their spokesman, protested strongly against his arrest, and complained of the ill-treatment to which he and his companions had been subjected at the hands of Kaïd Guilooly. He stated that he did not wish for counsel, as he had merely gone for a pleasure cruise on the "Tourmaline" and had landed on the Sus coast, which he denied formed part of the Sultan's dominions, for some shooting.

The Attorney-General asked for a remand of fourteen days, and the prisoners were informed they would be released on bail being furnished.

As Mr. Grey stated he was a gentleman of means, and is supposed to be more interested in the affair of the Syndicate than he acknowledged, bail to the amount of 1,000*l.* for himself, with two sureties of 500*l.* each, was demanded for him, while the three others were informed they would be released on furnishing bail for 40*l.*, with two sureties of 20*l.* each. The two sailors will, I fear, have difficulty in providing the bail, unless the Syndicate assists them, and they appear to have been innocent agents in the affair, and merely to have obeyed orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.)

WE replied to you in another communication by your Interpreter, the intelligent Irwin, of the consent of His Shereefian Majesty (compliments) to your request to send the prisoners taken in the Sus district to Tangier upon the conditions previously stated, from regard to your powerful and friendly Government, and to your Excellency, the friendly.

The said prisoners will reach Tangier with this, through His Majesty's Commissioner, Cid-el-Hadj Mohammed Torres, so that they may be detained through him, and through your Excellency, until such time as the negotiations concerning them are concluded between you and Kaïd Abdallah-ben-Saïd of Sallee, who has been appointed on behalf of the Shereefian Government, in accordance with what has been previously explained to you, oh sincere counsellor, and we have the certainty that you will show a compensation in words and acts by attention to and bringing about a result which will please this Shereefian Government,

May you continue, &c.

Finished, 10th Kaada, 1315 (2nd April, 1898).

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 157.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 35.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, May 8, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case.

With reference to my telegram No. 34 as to treatment of prisoners, I would refer your Lordship to my despatches Nos. 58, 47, 41, 39, 26, 22, 19, and 16.

From information obtained here from prisoners, it would appear that during first fifteen days of capture treatment was very cruel, marked improvement afterwards, and subsequently the treatment was good. I am sending full report on the subject by to-morrow's bag. The Moorish Government, I conclude, was anxious that the prisoners should receive good treatment, but that the Governor in charge of them in the early stages, till he received strict orders to treat them well, behaved with great brutality.

No. 158.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 9, 1898.

Mr. Hedderwick.—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that a Mr. Henry M. Grey, one of the prisoners of the "Tourmaline," has made a statement that the said prisoners, who are British subjects, had been kept prisoners for three months without trial, chained together by the neck, shackled with camel shackles, robbed, spat upon, and jeeringly invited to call upon the British Government to come and help them:

And whether he will cause inquiry to be made into the truth of this statement with a view to demand reparation for such treatment.

Answer.

As soon as Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier learnt that the prisoners had been captured, he communicated with the Grand Vizier as to their welfare, and requested that they should be subjected to no harsh treatment.

On reports reaching Tangier in February last that the prisoners were ill-treated, Sir A. Nicolson brought the matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier, who assured him that orders had been sent to treat them with kindness, and further stated that letters had been sent to Kaïd Gilooly to take great care of the captives, to supply them with all the provisions they required, and with bed clothes, tents, and good mules for their journey.

At the request of Sir A. Nicolson fresh orders were sent to that effect.

After the statement made by one of the prisoners in the Consular Court on the 30th ultimo with regard to the ill-treatment they had suffered, Sir A. Nicolson addressed a strong remonstrance to the Moorish Government.

He states that he believes the Moorish Government were anxious that the prisoners should be well treated, but that in the early stages of their imprisonment the officer in charge behaved with great harshness until he received strict orders to

treat them well. Their treatment then improved, and they reached Tangier in good health.

Sir A. Nicolson proposes to demand the punishment of this official, and Her Majesty's Government will support the demand.

No. 159.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, May 9, 1898.

IT is desirable, in order to prosecute the persons landed from the yacht "Tourmaline" and now detained at Tangier, that a witness should be sent over from the arms factory whence the rifles were procured, so as to prove the fact of purchase and to identify one of the arms which were captured by the Moorish troops.

You should inquire of Mr. Consul-General Perry whether he can trace the place of manufacture and procure the attendance of a witness. I would refer you to his despatch No. 5 of the 14th February inclosed in your despatch No. 36.

You should also obtain the attendance of a witness to prove that the arms were shipped on board the "Tourmaline."

The witnesses should both proceed to Tangier with the least possible delay.

No. 160.

Foreign Office to Globe Venture Syndicate.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 9, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, forwarding a cheque for 120*l.* as a guarantee for the bail imposed in the case of the three members of the crew of the "Tourmaline," who are now under detention in Morocco for trial before the Consular Court.

In answer to your request that instructions may be sent to Her Majesty's Consul to take active measures on behalf of the prisoners, I am to state that it would be undesirable, if not improper, that any Consular officer should, at the present stage of the affair, take steps of the kind suggested in your letter, and that it will be preferable that the Syndicate should employ their own agents in this matter.

The cheque inclosed in your communication is accordingly returned herewith.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 161.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 11.)

Sir,

War Office, May 9, 1898.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th ultimo, covering copies of despatches on the subject of Major A. Gybbon-Spilsbury's expedition to the west coast of Morocco, I am directed by Lord Lansdowne to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that an intimation of Major Spilsbury's services as a militia officer being no longer required will shortly be gazetted. Such being the case the question of Major Spilsbury's arrest does not rest with the Secretary of State for War.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. KNOX.

No. 162.

Foreign Office to Mr. R. R. Grey.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 11, 1898.*
I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, forwarding a newspaper extract relating to the ill-treatment to which Mr. Henry M. Grey was subjected when a prisoner in the hands of the Moorish authorities.

I am to state, in reply, that this matter is engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government; and I am to refer you to the statement made in the House of Commons on the subject by Mr. Curzon on the 9th instant, and reported in the newspapers of the following day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 163.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Brussels, May 12, 1898.*
WITH reference to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions to me of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward copy of a despatch which I have just received from Mr. Consul-General Perry, from which it appears that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain the attendance at Tangier of the witnesses in the case of the "Tourmaline," whose presence there is desired.

I shall be grateful if your Lordship would inform me whether you wish me to apply here for permission for the Antwerp Vérificateur to attend, which, it appears, may possibly be refused, or whether your Lordship prefers to wait for the further report which Mr Perry promises to send as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Consul-General Perry to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Antwerp, May 11, 1898.*
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 11 of yesterday's date, stating that the Marquess of Salisbury deems it desirable, for the prosecution of the persons implicated in the matter of the yacht "Tourmaline," to have a witness from the manufacturers who shipped the arms, in order to prove the purchase and to identify them.

As your Excellency's despatch reached me by express, I immediately sent down to the agents of the "Tourmaline" to inquire whether they could inform me where the rifles were purchased. The reply was that they regretted to disoblige me, but it was quite impossible to give up the name of the person who sold the arms without his authority, which they would try to obtain.

I further inquired of the chief Custom-house officials whether they would allow the Vérificateur at the South Quay, who saw the goods shipped on board the "Tourmaline," to proceed to Tangier to give evidence as to the shipment of the arms. The answer was that they did not think it possible, but, under any circumstances, the authority would have to come from Brussels.

Another communication to your Excellency will follow as soon as I procure further particulars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. R. DE COURCY PERRY.

No. 164.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 13, 1898, 1 P.M.*
I AM informed by the Secretary of State for the War Department that a notice will shortly be issued in the "London Gazette" that the services of Major Spilsbury are no longer required in the Militia.

No. 165.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 14, 1898.*
WITH reference to your despatch No. 49 of the 11th ultimo, inclosing a warrant against Major Spilsbury, I request you to state whether the offence with which he is charged is one for which any form of "labour" (not necessarily implying hard labour) could be imposed by the Court for Morocco in addition to imprisonment for a period of not less than twelve months.

Please refer to "Fugitive Offenders' Act, 1881," sec. 9, and Morocco Order in Council, Article 7.

No. 166.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, May 14, 1898.*
WITH reference to my letter of the 30th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, has received a communication from the Grand Vizier, expressing the wish of the Moorish Government that the representatives of foreign merchants may be instructed to submit to Kaid Larbi-ben-Sharki M'zabi, through the Governor of Dar-al-Baida, the claims of their respective firms for losses incurred during the late disturbances in the M'zab district, with a view to their speedy settlement.

Sir A. Nicholson has forwarded a copy of the Grand Vizier's note to Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida with instructions to communicate on the subject with the British merchants concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 167.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 15, 1898.*
GLOBE Venture Syndicate.
With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 23, the Attorney-General advises me that, under Order in Council, Article 107, a prisoner could be sentenced by the Court to twelve months' imprisonment, but he thinks that, unless expressly excluded, such sentence would carry with it some kind of labour. Attorney-General's reasons are that the Prison Rules in the Queen's Regulations of 1892 provide hard labour on all convict prisoners (see Prison Rule No. 44), and under Article 143 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," the Prison Rules have effect as if they were contained in the Order. By convict prisoners must be meant, according to the Rules, vide 1 and 28, all persons convicted. Further, according to Article 15 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," certain classes of offences are exempted expressly from hard labour; consequently,

should a prisoner be convicted of an offence for which imprisonment was imposed without any mention being made as to hard labour, the prisoner would, the Attorney-General submits, be necessarily liable to such labour.

At the request of the prisoners further hearing of the case has been adjourned until the 14th June.

No. 168.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 4, 1898.

THE Spanish Minister forwarded to me a copy of a letter he had received from the Commandant-General of Melilla relative to the capture of a British subject, Mr. Dowden, by the Riff tribe adjacent to that fortress. I have the honour to transmit a translation of that communication. Mr. Dowden's detention appears to have been a short one, and he seems to have been put to little inconvenience. I have thanked M. de Ojeda for his courtesy in sending me this information, and have requested him also to convey my thanks to the Spanish authorities at Melilla.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 168.

Señor Alcantara to Señor Ojeda.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency,

Melilla, April 29, 1898.

UNDER this date I am informing his Excellency the Minister of War of the following:—

As I received a communication yesterday at 3 P.M. from the Basha of the frontier that he was sending me a gentleman of English nationality who had been detained by the Moors of Jebel Beni Hamed el Hadj (at the foot of Gurugu), it not being known what his intentions might be, and adding, that in the case that I might wish to interrogate him, he also sent me Sid Mohammed Ararish to give me details of the occurrence. On interrogation, the English subject turned out to be a traveller from the pleasure yacht which anchored in this roadstead three days since. His name is Mr. Edward Dowden, born in Scotland, a friend of Mr. Francis Punton, the owner of the vessel. He went ashore at 11 A.M. to take a walk in the interior and to collect wild flowers, and not being aware of the limits and of the prohibition of the Riffians against Europeans entering their country, he continued going inland in the direction of the hills of Gurugu, until he was stopped by some Moors, who took from him what money he had upon him, consisting of 150 francs, in gold 10-franc pieces, an Italian dollar, and two 2-franc pieces; they also took a watch and a pocket compass—without his making any protest that he had been molested or harmed in any way.

He was immediately taken to the Alcazaba and presented to the Moorish authorities, and from thence he was brought before me by a couple of askaris (soldiers), and accompanied by El Fraile, who agreed with all the Scotsman had stated, and producing the money and other articles which had been taken from the latter and which he had recovered from the Moors, and refusing to accept any gratuity for himself or for the Moors for the service they had done—a generous action worthy of being taken into account, given the character of the Riffians, and which shows that their character is undergoing a modification, and its roughness becoming smoothed down.

On my part I have expressed my best thanks to the Basha for the good conduct of the subjects of the Government, and recommending to him the generous disinterestedness of Sid Mohammed Ararish, which I have the honour to bring to the knowledge of your Excellency.

(Signed) JOSÉ ALCANTARA.

No. 169.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 62.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 8, 1898.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 21 of the 7th instant, I think it would be of advantage if I reported in a connected narrative the various reports which were brought to my knowledge as to the treatment of the European prisoners, and the measures which were taken with a view of procuring proper care of them at the hands of the Moorish authorities.

In my despatch No. 173 of the 29th December, 1897, I transmitted to your Lordship copy of a note which I had addressed to the Grand Vizier warning him of a possible attempt to disembark arms and ammunition on the Sûs coast, and requesting, if any British subject should be apprehended by the Moorish authorities in the prosecution of such an enterprise, he should be handed over unharmed to the nearest British Consular authority.

On the 31st January, the Clerk of Her Majesty's Consulate at Dar-al-Baida arrived here with despatches reporting the occurrences on the Sûs coast, which despatches were transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 16 of the 1st February. In one of the inclosures of the above-mentioned despatch, Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston stated that an eye-witness of the surrender informed him that the Englishmen were not badly treated, so that he is inclined to hope that a "rumour of their having been put in irons is founded on imagination rather than fact." Captain Siebert, of the "Hassanie," also stated that the prisoners were well treated.

I wrote to the Grand Vizier on the 31st January (copy of my note was inclosed in my despatch No. 21 of the 11th February) saying that I had no doubt the prisoners would be treated kindly, and requesting his Excellency to send them to Tangier without delay.

In my despatch No. 19 of the 7th February, I transmitted further reports from Her Majesty's Consular Officers—in one of the inclosures Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston states that his Sûs agent arrived at Mogador on the 30th January, having left Kaïd Guilooly's camp on the 22nd January. This agent reported that to the best of his knowledge the prisoners were being well treated, "the Kaïd having refused to comply with the wish of some of his officers to put the Christians in chains." Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston caused a letter to be written to Kaïd Guilooly urging him to see that the prisoners were protected from insult and needless annoyance, and assuring him that any kindness he might show them would be appreciated by their fellow-countrymen.

On the 12th February I wrote to the Grand Vizier announcing that I was sending Mr. Irwin to the Sultan's camp to speak to him on the occurrences which had taken place on the Sûs coast, and in this note I requested that no further delay should occur in sending the prisoners to Tangier, and that I trusted that his Excellency would instruct the officials who had charge of them to show them all kindness.

On the 15th February I received despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston reporting that he had received information that the prisoners were being harshly treated by Kaïd Guilooly.

The reports from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston, and the steps which he took in the matter, were conveyed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 22 of the 15th February.

On the 16th February Mr. Irwin left Tangier for the Sultan's camp, and in the written instructions given to him he was directed to call the serious attention of the Grand Vizier to the reports of ill-treatment, and to request that fresh orders be sent to Kaïd Guilooly to treat the prisoners well, and to give them all they wanted. He was also to insist on all irons being removed, if any had been placed.

I subsequently received two private letters from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston to Mr. Consul Maclean, dated the 16th and 17th February respectively, stating that the prisoners were being well fed and well treated. As these documents were not at the time sent to your Lordship I beg leave to transmit copies of them.

Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston addressed to me on the 18th February a long despatch inclosed in my despatch No. 26 of the 27th February, chiefly dealing with other matters, but which in its concluding paragraphs refers to the good treatment of the prisoners.

Mr. Irwin arrived at the Sultan's camp at the end of February, and on the 3rd March he reported to me that he had spoken to the Grand Vizier as to the treatment of the prisoners, and that his Excellency had said that orders had been sent to Kaïd Guilooly to treat the prisoners properly. In my despatch No. 39 of the 22nd March, I forwarded a

further Report from Mr. Irwin, dated the 16th March, in which he states that the Sultan believed that no chains had been placed on the prisoners, but that, nevertheless, he had complied with my request, and had sent orders that, if any had been placed, they were to be removed; and, at the same time, orders had been renewed to furnish the prisoners with everything they might require.

In my despatch No. 41 of the 23rd March I reported that Mr. Irwin had mentioned in a private letter that orders had been sent to treat the prisoners with all proper care. In a private letter dated the 20th March, Mr. Irwin reported that the Sultan had caused him to be informed that the prisoners were being well looked after, and provided with all they might want in the way of food, clothes, &c.

In my despatch No. 47 of the 6th April, I forwarded a further Report from Mr. Irwin, dated the 29th March, in which he alludes to an intention on the part of the Moorish Government to send the prisoners to Mogador in irons, in order to prevent them from escaping, an intention which Mr. Irwin fortunately persuaded them to abandon.

In my despatch No. 58 of the 29th April, I forwarded despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston reporting the arrival of the prisoners at Mogador, of their good treatment by the Governor of that town, and also the complaints which they made as to general harsh treatment on the part of Kaïd Guilooly.

On the 30th April the prisoners were brought before the Chief Justice in the Consular Court here, and Mr. Grey, one of the prisoners, made a statement complaining that they had been placed in irons by Kaïd Guilooly, and chained to other prisoners; that they had been insufficiently fed and ill-lodged, and had been kept in a dirty condition.

On the 2nd May I wrote to Kaïd Maclean to bring these complaints to the notice of the Grand Vizier, and to tell him from me that such treatment was most disgraceful, and would create a very bad impression when known in England. I further requested Kaïd Maclean to impress this very strongly on the Grand Vizier.

I wished to reserve an official and formal communication till I had received full and explicit details, and till I had communicated with your Lordship as to the action which it might be considered desirable to demand of the Moorish Government in regard to Kaïd Guilooly. Moreover, I considered that such a demand could be pressed more opportunely and with greater force after than before the trial of the prisoners here.

I have caused inquiries to be made of Mr. Grey as to the treatment to which he and his companions were subjected. He stated that they were captured on the 19th January, and were every night for fifteen days in irons, that is to say, irons round the neck, and sometimes on the feet. They had very little food and little water, and were made to lie on the ground at nights without covering. He also said that tents, equipment, instruments, watches, and rings were taken from them, and that an endeavour was made to force his signet ring off his finger with the flat of a knife. They were chained to negro slaves and tribal Moors, all of whom were alive with vermin. On one occasion at Flata in S'booya, a man was put into the hovel where they were with a wound in his back, and this man was subsequently beheaded. On one occasion they were forty hours without water. From Arksis to Tisnit they rode on camels, but were not chained while riding. After Tisnit they had mules and camels.

One day the march was diverted so that they might pass through a town and be insulted by the inhabitants. They had a small tent fit to hold two Europeans, but in which on one occasion fifteen were placed.

On arrival at Kaïd Guilooly's kasbah, after about fifteen days' march, a marked change occurred in the treatment. They had rooms with mats and carpets, two meals a-day, and were allowed out daily. No chains were then placed, and after that date they received consistent good treatment. Their great complaint then was that they were not allowed to communicate with the Consular authorities or their friends.

It is clear from the above statement that great harshness was practised by Kaïd Guilooly during the first fifteen days of the detention of the prisoners; and it was not until he received orders from the Court that he changed his treatment of his captives.

I have reason for believing that the Grand Vizier was desirous that the prisoners should be well treated; and I have no doubt that as soon as he heard of the occurrences on the Sûs coast, even if it were not before, orders were sent for the good treatment of those who were or might be apprehended. The locality where the prisoners were captured was distant, and means of communication are not rapid in this country.

Orders for good treatment were evidently received by Kaïd Guilooly fifteen days after the capture; and this leads me to believe that they had been dispatched before the news of such capture had been received at Court.

It is possible that Kaïd Guilooly was incensed against the prisoners, if it is true that some of his men were killed in the skirmish preceding the capture, and it is possible that

the fear of their escaping led him to place them in irons at night, as is customary with political and other prisoners in this country. Still, although acquitting the Moorish Government of any share in the harsh acts perpetrated, they can only absolve themselves from all responsibility by evincing, in a form to be hereafter determined, their displeasure with, and disapproval of, their official who committed them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Consul Maclean.

Dear Mr. Maclean, Mogador, February 16, 1898.
SINCE closing my other letters I learn, on best authority, that the Europeans at Dar-al-Guilooly are all right, and are being treated with every consideration. The Guilooly's Vice-Governor has written to my own cashier for clean linen and a lot of things he wants to give them.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 169.

Vice-Consul Johnston to Consul Maclean.

Dear Mr. Maclean, Mogador, February 17, 1898.
THE Esbouya prisoners (Moorish) passed northwards, 10 miles inland, yesterday. Seventeen, I am told; later, eleven. Europeans still at or near Dar-al-Guilooly, one and a-half day's south. They are now being well fed and well treated. They appear to be waiting there until further orders from the Court. I am told Kaïd Guilooly has had an awful wiggling from Ba Hamed for putting them in irons.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

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Yours, &c.
(Signed) R. L. N. JOHNSTON.

No. 170.

Messrs. B. A. Dehn and Heine, Successors, to the Marquess of Salisbury.—
(Received May 19.)

My Lord, 47, Newton Street, Dale Street, Manchester, May 18, 1898.
WE are in receipt of your telegram reading as follows: "We think you should send direct to Consular Officer at Dar-al-Baida;" and we now tender our best thanks to your Lordship for this information, and are sending full particulars of our claim by to-day's mail to Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, and beg leave to inclose a copy thereof, and we have also sent a copy to Sir A. Nicolson.

We trust your Lordship will kindly support our claim through Sir A. Nicolson at Tangier, and we remain, &c.

(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE, SUCCESSORS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 170.

Messrs. B. A. Dehn and Heine, Successors, to Consul MacLean.

Sir, 47, Newton Street, Dale Street, Manchester, May 18, 1898.
WE are officially informed by the Foreign Office in London that the Moorish Government has now expressed the wish that the representatives of foreign merchants may be instructed to submit to Kaïd Larbi ben Sharki M'zabi, through the Governor
[1069] 2 D

of Dar-al-Baida, the claims of their respective firms for losses incurred during the late disturbances in the M'zab district, with a view to their speedy settlement.

The Foreign Office further advises us to send to you direct particulars of our claim arising out of the above-named disturbances in the M'zab district, and we now beg to submit to you the following particulars.

When the disturbances occurred in the M'zab in 1896, and when we were made aware that several of our customers in Morocco were sufferers through these riots, and, as a consequence thereof, were unable to pay the amounts owing to us, we addressed the Foreign Office in London and Sir Arthur Nicolson at Tangier on the subject, and we sent to them, on the 5th August, 1896, statements showing the amounts owing to us by three customers who asserted that they were losers by these disturbances. The customers in question are—

Dres Kotoni, of Casablanca;
Mohamed ben Thami Tassi, of Casablanca; and
Mohamed El Hartzi-el-Slani, of Casablanca.

Of these clients Dres Kotoni and Mohamed ben Thami Tassi have since paid to us a portion of their debts, so that our claims against them are now less than they were in August 1896.

Mohamed El Hartzi-el-Slani, however, has not been able to pay off anything of his indebtedness, and asserts that he has been totally ruined through the aforementioned riots in the M'zab, and, in spite of all our endeavours to obtain some payment from him, we have not been able to get anything, as he continually reiterated that he could not pay till his claim against the Moorish Government was settled. Our claims against the three debtors on the 5th August, 1896, when we furnished particulars to the Foreign Office and to Sir A. Nicolson, stood, as per inclosed copies of claims then made out, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Mohamed El Hartzi-el-Slani	1,287	9	4
Mohamed ben Thami Tassi	113	9	0
Dres Kotoni	51	18	11

By adding interest at 5 per cent. to these amounts and by giving credit for payments made to us since then, the net amounts owing to us now amount to the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Mohamed El Hartzi-el-Slani	1,402	4	9
Mohamed ben Thami Tassi	54	14	11
Dres Kotoni	33	9	9

as per inclosed extracts of account, and we will thank you if you will kindly present these accounts, which form our claims, to the proper authorities and give them your best support.

We would still say that we have reason to believe that the losses of the above-mentioned three debtors and their claims against the Moorish Government are considerably bigger than the amounts owing to us, and we would point out the great importance that payment, so far as our claims are concerned, should be made to you and not to the debtors, so as to preclude any possibility of the money being used for other purposes.

We trust that a settlement will be arrived at speedily, and that you will be able to transmit to us the full amounts claimed, less, of course, the Consular charges.

We are, &c.

(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE, SUCCESSORS.

P.S.—We make out the Statement of Accounts in the name of B. A. Dehn and Heine, as the debts were originally incurred by the debtors with our predecessors.

B. A. D. AND H., Ss.

Inclosure 2 in No. 170.

Statement of Account.

Mohamed El Hartzi-el-Slani, Casablanca, Dr., to B. A. Dehn and Heine.

	£	s.	d.
December 31, 1895. To balance as per account current ..	1,251	10	4
August 5, 1896. To interest at 5 per cent. ..	35	19	0
	1,287	9	4

(E. and O. E.)

Manchester, August 5, 1896.

Mohamed Tassi, Casablanca, Dr., to B. A. Dehn and Heine.

	£	s.	d.
December 31, 1895. To balance as per account current ..	338	7	3
June 8, 1896. To interest at 5 per cent. ..	7	10	4
	345	17	7
June 8, 1896. By remittance	231	3	5
	114	14	2
August 5, 1896. To interest at 5 per cent. ..	0	14	10
	115	9	0

(E. and O. E.)

Manchester, August 5, 1896.

Dres Kotoni, Casablanca, Dr., to B. A. Dehn and Heine.

	£	s.	d.
To draft due December 7, 1895, unpaid	48	18	4
To interest as per account rendered	3	0	7
	51	18	11

(E. and O. E.)

Manchester, August 5, 1896.

Dr. Mohamed El Hartz-el-Siani, Casablanca, in account current with B. A. Dehn and Heine, Manchester. Cr.

Date.	Interest per 18th May, 18. 8.	Due.	Period.	Interest at 5 per Cent.	Total.	Date.	Interest per 18th May, 1898.	Due.	Period.	Interest at 5 per Cent.	Total.
Aug. 5, 1896 ..	To balance..	Aug. 5, 1896 ..	1 year 286 days	£ 114 15 5	£ 1,287 9 4	May 18, 1898	By balance of interest at 5 per cent. to date	..	..	£ 114 15 5	£ ..
May 18, 1898 ..	To balance of interest at 5 per cent. to date	..	..	..	114 15 5	" 18, 1898	By balance	..	..	..	1,402 4 9
" 18, 1898 ..	To balance..	..	..	..	1,402 4 9					114 15 5	1,402 4 9

Mohamed Tassi, Casablanca, in account current with B. A. Dehn and Heine, Manchester.

Aug. 5, 1896 ..	To balance..	Aug. 5, 1896 ..	1 year 286 days	£ 10 5 1	£ 115 9 0	Feb. 7, 1898 ..	By payment to Messrs. Fernan and Lorthiois Freres	Feb. 7 ..	100 days	0 19 2	70 0 0
May 18, 1898 ..	To balance of interest at 5 per cent. to date	..	..	..	9 5 11	May 18, 1898	By balance of interest at 5 per cent. to date	..	..	9 5 11	..
May 18, 1898 ..	To balance..	..	..	..	124 14 11	" 18, 1898	By balance..	..	..	..	54 14 11
				..	54 14 11					10 5 1	124 14 11

Dres Kotoni, Casablanca, in account current with B. A. Dehn and Heine, Manchester.

Aug. 5, 1896 ..	To balance..	Aug. 5, 1896 ..	1 year 286 days	£ 4 12 9	£ 51 18 11	July 29, 1897	By Payment to Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited	July 29, 1897	293 days	0 17 8	22 4 3
May 18, 1898 ..	To balance of interest at 5 per cent. to date	..	..	..	3 15 1	May 18, 1898	By balance of interest at 5 per cent. to date	..	..	3 15 1	..
May 18, 1898 ..	To balance..	..	..	..	55 14 0	" 18, 1898	By balance..	..	..	..	33 9 9
				..	33 9 9					4 12 9	55 14 0

E. and O. E.

Manchester, May 18, 1898.

(Signed)

B. A. DEHN AND HEINE.

No. 171.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 37.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture Case.

With reference to my telegram No. 36 of the 15th instant, I have received a communication from the Attorney-General of Gibraltar, pointing out that prisoner could be sent for imprisonment to Gibraltar, and there would be subjected to labour under section 40 of the Prison Ordinance.

Tangier, May 19, 1898.

No. 172.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 40.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 20, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 60 of the 4th instant, reporting the capture and subsequent release of Mr. Edward Dowden, a British subject, by Moors of the Riff tribe.

I approve the action which you have taken in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 173.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 63. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 12, 1898.

THE Spanish Minister informed me to-day that the Moorish troops who had been sent to the Riff country to punish the Bocoyan tribe had arrived near Alhucemas, and were, therefore, in close proximity to the scene of their proposed operations. He had this morning received a letter from the Chiefs of the Bocoyan tribe reminding him that he had informed them that the Sultan had pardoned them for any acts which they had performed in the past, and asking him to procure a fulfilment of the engagements for which they alleged he had made himself responsible. M. de Ojeda told me that he was replying to the effect that he had merely acted as the channel of communication between the Deputy of the Sultan here and the tribe in regard to the promise of a free pardon, and that if they considered they had any grounds for complaint, they should address themselves to the Moorish authorities and not to him.

As I reported in my despatch No. 158 of the 17th November, 1897, the Sultan's Deputy denies that any promise of pardon was ever granted.

I asked M. de Ojeda if the communication of the Bocoyans contained any threats, and he replied that he had not carefully read the full text of this letter, but he did not think it conveyed any special menaces, but it was couched in general veiled terms of a somewhat minatory character. He did not, however, attach much importance to it.

He told me, and this I had confirmed from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, that the Bocoyan Chief who had had charge of the Portuguese captives had recently been staying with the French Consular Agent at Tetuan, but the local authorities had not interfered with him in any way.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 174.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 65.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 16, 1898.

THE trial of the prisoners who were captured on the Sûs coast was resumed yesterday before the Chief Justice of Gibraltar, and, at the request of three of the prisoners, the case was adjourned till the 14th June, in order to enable them to have time to procure the assistance of counsel from England. One of the prisoners, Mr. Grey, at first desired that the trial should proceed, but eventually withdrew his objection to the adjournment.

All the prisoners, with the exception of Mr. Grey, were released on bail a few days ago, and the bail for Mr. Grey was reduced to himself in 500*l.* and two sureties of 250*l.* each. He gave the Court to understand that he expected shortly to be able to find the necessary bail.

As yet no witnesses have been sent here by the Moorish Government; but I am informed that they are taking steps to send them here with as little delay as possible.

I may mention that all the prisoners elected to be tried without assessors.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 175.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 66.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 16, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit an application which Mr. Chief Justice Gatty has requested me to forward to your Lordship.

I may mention that in a despatch from the late Earl Granville to the late Sir John Drummond-Hay, No. 38, of the 6th December, 1881, a copy of a letter was inclosed from the late Lord Tenterden to Mr. Curtis, stating "that the Wady Draa has long been considered to be the southern limit on the coast of the territory of Morocco, and that the Province of Sûs has been claimed as part of that territory, and recognized as such by Her Majesty's Government."

As the Wady Draa is considerably to the south of Wad Nun, a little to the north of which is Arksis, it is clear that that latter port is within the dominion of the Sultan of Morocco, and in Article 4 of the Morocco Order in Council it is stated that "Morocco," or the expression "the limits of this Order," means the dominion of His Majesty the Sultan.

Further, by the Cape Juby Agreement, the recognition of the territory of Morocco was extended from Wady Draa to Cape Bajador.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 175.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GIBRALTAR ACTING IN MOROCCO.

The Attorney-General of Gibraltar, Complainant, and Henry Grey, William Last, Arthur de Reya, and Meyer Sabbah, Defendants.

Application of the Court to one of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State, under Section 4 of "The Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890."

I, STEPHEN HERBERT GATTY, Esq., Chief Justice of Gibraltar, have the honour to inform Her Majesty's Secretary of State as follows:—

1. On the 30th April, 1898, an information in this case was sworn before me, a

copy of which is hereto attached. A question has arisen in this proceeding whether Her Majesty's jurisdiction exercised through the Court for Morocco and the Supreme Court of Gibraltar under "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," extends to Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, one of the prisoners contending that Arksis is not within Moroquine territory or the Moorish dominions, and therefore that this Court has no jurisdiction to try the case.

2. I have thought it right and have the honour now to apply to one of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State for his decision on the question for the purposes of this proceeding under the provisions of section 4 of "The Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890," should Her Majesty's Secretary of State be of opinion that the question raised is one for his decision under that section.

The questions submitted are:—

1. Was Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, part of the Moroquine territories on the 12th January, 1898?

2. Was Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, within the dominions of His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco and Fez on the 12th January, 1898?

3. Does Her Majesty's jurisdiction exercised through the Court for Morocco and the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, under the provisions of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," extend to British subjects smuggling or importing goods into Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, so as to render them liable to be tried and punished under the provisions of Article 107 and 108 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889."

Submitted under my hand and seal at Tangier, this 16th day of May, 1898.

(L.S.)

(Signed)

STEPHEN HERBERT GATTY,

Chief Justice.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GIBRALTAR ACTING IN MOROCCO.

Criminal Jurisdiction.—Saturday, the 30th day of April, 1898.

The Attorney-General of Gibraltar, Complainant, and Henry Grey, William Last, Arthur de Reya, and Meyer Sabbah, Defendants.

The information of Alfred Irwin, Dragoman and Interpreter to the British Legation at Tangier, who saith on his oath that he has just cause to believe and suspect, and doth believe and suspect, that Henry Grey, William Last, Arthur de Reya, and Meyer Sabbah, British subjects, on or about the 12th day of January, 1898, did at Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, in the Empire of Morocco, unlawfully smuggle into Moroquine territory certain goods, which said goods were not admitted to importation, to wit, certain rifles and ammunition contrary to the provisions of the Convention of Commerce and Navigation made between Her Majesty the Queen and the Sultan of Morocco, dated the 9th December, 1856, and "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," and, further, that they, the persons aforesaid, did, on the day and year aforesaid, unlawfully import or attempt to import into Morocco certain goods, to wit, certain rifles and ammunition, the importation whereof into Morocco is prohibited by Moorish law, and, further, did, on the day and year aforesaid, without a proper licence, sell or attempt to sell in Morocco certain goods, to wit, rifles and ammunition, whereof the Government of Morocco has by Moorish law a monopoly, contrary to the provisions of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889."

(Signed)

A. IRWIN.

Taken and sworn at Tangier, in the Empire of Morocco, this 30th day of April, 1898.

Before me:

(Signed)

STEPHEN H. GATTY,

Chief Justice of Gibraltar.

No. 176.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 23, 1898.

Mr. Hedderwick,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British Consul-General at Antwerp has recently been pursuing inquiries in Belgium with a view to obtain evidence against the prisoners of the "Tourmaline," at present remanded for trial at Tangier:

Whether this course of action by the Consul-General referred to has been undertaken at the request of Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier, where these prisoners are about to be tried:

And, whether such proceedings spring from instructions from the Foreign Office or have the countenance or sanction of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Answer.

The necessary steps have been taken for the preparation of the case in question, which is now before the Consular Court at Tangier. But, in the interests of justice, I must decline at the present stage to enter into details.

No. 177.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 23, 1898.

Mr. Kemp,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if any steps have already been taken, or whether the Government will be prepared to take steps, to secure to the English "Tourmaline" prisoners redress for the maltreatment they have received.

Answer.

This point must receive consideration later, when fuller information has been obtained and when the explanations of the Moorish Government have been received.

No. 178.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 120.)

My Lord,

Brussels, May 24, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 112 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to forward copy of a despatch from Acting Consul Lydcotte, reporting that he has been unable so far to obtain the names of the persons who sold the munitions of war which were shipped on the yacht "Tourmaline" at Antwerp.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT

Inclosure in No. 178.

Acting Consul-General Lydcotte to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 22.)

Sir,

Antwerp, May 23, 1898.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General de Courcy Perry's despatch No. 20 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the agents of the "Tourmaline" now state that they have not been able to obtain the authority of the

persons who sold the munitions of war to Major Spilsbury to communicate their names. If, however, I am able to obtain the desired information from other sources I shall not fail to communicate it to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. LYDCOTTE.

No. 179.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 42.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 66 of the 16th instant, forwarding an application from Chief Justice Gatty asking for information on the following points:—

1. Was Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, part of the Maroquine territories on the 12th January, 1898?

2. Was Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, within the dominions of His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco and Fez on the 12th January, 1898?

3. Does Her Majesty's jurisdiction, exercised through the Court for Morocco and the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, under the provisions of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," extend to British subjects smuggling or importing goods into Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, so as to render them liable to be tried and punished under the provisions of Articles 107 and 108 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889?"

I transmit to you herewith, under flying seal, a document answering these questions in the affirmative, and I request you to forward it to the Chief Justice of Gibraltar directly it reaches you.

With regard to these inquiries, I would observe, for your further information, that, as Arksis is to the north of Wad Nun, there can be no doubt that it is included within the territories of the Emperor of Morocco as recognized by Her Majesty's Government for many years, and, therefore, within the operation of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889."

Wadnoon (or Wad Nun) is specially mentioned in the General Treaty between Great Britain and Morocco of the 9th December, 1856, as well as in the Commercial Convention of the same date.

In the former it is stated (Article XXXIII) that "if a British vessel should be wrecked at Wadnoon, or on any part of its coast, the Sultan of Morocco shall exert his power to save and protect the captain and crew . . . and the Governors appointed in those places by the Sultan of Morocco shall also assist the Consul-General," &c.

In the Commercial Convention it is stated (Article XII): "Should His Majesty the Sultan open the ports of Meheden, Agudur, or Wadnoon, or any other ports within the limits of His Majesty's dominions, no difference shall be made in the levying of duties, &c." (*Vide Hertslet's Commercial Treaties*, vol. x, pp. 913, 921.)

Until the year 1895 the southern limit of Morocco as recognized by Her Majesty's Government, was Wad Draa. In March of that year, on the purchase by the Sultan of Morocco of the property acquired by the North-west Africa Company at Cape Juby, Her Majesty's Government, by the Agreement of the 13th March, recognized also the territory lying between Wad Draa and Cape Bogador (the northern limit of the Spanish possessions) as belonging to Morocco. (*Vide Hertslet's Map of Africa by Treaty*, vol. iii, p. 1064.)

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Answer by the Marquess of Salisbury to Questions submitted by Chief Justice Gatty.

WHEREAS a criminal proceeding by the Attorney-General of Gibraltar, complainant, against Henry Grey, William Last, Arthur de Reya, and Meyer Sabbah, defendants, is now pending in the Supreme Court for Gibraltar, acting in Morocco.

And whereas Stephen Herbert Gatty, Esq., the Chief Justice of Her Majesty's Colony of Gibraltar, has, in connection with the said criminal proceeding and in

pursuance of the provisions on that behalf contained in section 4 of "The Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890" (53 & 54 Vict., cap. 37), addressed to me the following questions with regard to the existence and extent of Her Majesty's jurisdiction in Morocco, namely:—

1. Was Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, part of the Maroquine territories on the 12th January, 1898.

2. Was Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, within the dominions of His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco and Fez on the 12th January, 1898.

3. Does Her Majesty's jurisdiction exercised through the Court for Morocco and the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, under the provisions of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," extend to British subjects smuggling or importing goods into Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, so as to render them liable to be tried and punished under the provisions of Articles 107 and 108 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889."

Now, therefore, I, Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoigne Cecil, Marquess of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, make answer thereto as follows:—

1. Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, was on the 12th January, 1898, and still is part of the Maroquine territories.

2. Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, was on the 12th January, 1898, and still is within the dominions of His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco and Fez.

3. Her Majesty's jurisdiction exercised through the Court for Morocco and the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, under the provisions of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," does extend to British subjects smuggling or importing goods into Arksis, on the coast of Sûs, so as to render them liable to be tried and punished under the provisions of Articles 107 and 108 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889."

Given under my hand and seal this 25th day of May, 1898.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 180.

Foreign Office to the Law Officers of the Crown.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, by direction of the Marquess of Salisbury, the Papers enumerated in the accompanying list relating to an expedition which was dispatched under the auspices of the Globe Venture Syndicate, and under the command of Honorary Major A. Gybon-Spilsbury, a Captain in the Thames Division of the Royal Engineers (militia), in the yacht "Tourmaline," to the Sûs districts of Morocco.

The intention of the Syndicate to take this step became known to the Moorish Government in the course of last autumn, and the Grand Vizier at once informed Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, that the inhabitants of the districts in question were under the protection and guardianship of the Government of Morocco, and that they had, therefore, no authority to make agreements such as they were said to have made with the Globe Venture Syndicate without the sanction of the Sultan of Morocco, which, in the present case, had not been given. The Grand Vizier also stated to Sir A. Nicolson that any British subject proceeding to open trade with the Chiefs on the Morocco coast above Wad Nun, without obtaining the permission of the Sultan, would do so at his own risk, that he would be liable to be arrested and handed over to the British Consular authorities at Mogador if he should attempt to land merchandize in the district of Sûs, and that such goods would be seized as contraband.

The decision of the Moorish Government in this matter was communicated to Major Spilsbury, and he was warned that if he insisted on visiting this district he would do so at his own risk, and must not expect any support or assistance from Her Majesty's Government.

The whole state of the case was also fully explained to Sir E. Thornton, one of the Directors of the Syndicate, but notwithstanding these warnings the Syndicate decided to allow the expedition to proceed.

A letter was thereupon addressed to the Syndicate (Paper A) warning them in a formal way against the course of action on which they were about to embark.

A copy of this letter was forwarded to Sir A. Nicolson with instructions to communicate it to the Moorish Government, and to take such further steps as he might

consider desirable with a view to make it publicly known that Her Majesty's Government would not countenance or support the enterprise in which the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate was engaged, unless the consent of the Moorish Government was first obtained.

In December last, Sir F. Plunkett, Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels, reported that he had learnt from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Antwerp that a British yacht, named the "Tourmaline," chartered by Major Spilsbury, was taking in arms and ammunition at Antwerp.

Evidence that this was the case, and of the nature of the cargo, will be found in the despatches from Sir F. Plunkett, Nos. 36 and 78 of the 15th February and the 13th April (Papers B and C).

The vessel having taken on board 3,650 rifles, 500,000 rounds of ball cartridge, and other merchandize of a more innocent character, proceeded with Major Spilsbury on board to the coast of Morocco, and Sir A. Nicolson telegraphed on the 17th January last that he had heard from Mogador that that officer had landed at a port in Sûs with arms and ammunition.

The Moorish Government had, however, made preparations to frustrate Major Spilsbury's movements, and Sir A. Nicolson reported, by telegraph, on the 31st of the same month that, by a combined movement of a steamer belonging to the Moorish Government, and of the Sultan's troops, the Major's party had been captured, he himself escaping on board the yacht.

It afterwards transpired that six prisoners were taken, viz., a Syrian interpreter, a German, and four British subjects, one of them of Portuguese origin. These men, after repeated demands addressed to the Moorish Government, have now been handed over by the Moorish authorities to Her Majesty's Minister who has given the German subject up to his Legation, and the other prisoners are lodged in the Consular Prison, and have been charged before the Chief Justice of Gibraltar, who has come to Tangier for the purpose, under the provisions of Article 107 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889." A copy of this Order in Council is annexed (Paper D).

A complete and thoroughly reliable account of what happened on the Sûs coast on the arrival of the "Tourmaline" can hardly be looked for, but Mr. Siebert, Captain of the Moorish steam-ship "Hassanee," in a Declaration to Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier, and Major Spilsbury, through the Globe Venture Syndicate, have both furnished statements from their different points of view of what took place. These will be found in Papers (E) and (F), and it may be inferred that the agent of the Syndicate disposed of a small quantity of arms to the natives although the bulk of the weapons were, as will be seen from Paper (C), after the failure of the expedition, landed at Antwerp, and the cartridges have been brought on to Gravesend consigned to Major Spilsbury. Those disposed of in Sûs are believed to be now in the hands of the Moorish authorities.

The incident has placed Her Majesty's Government in a very difficult position towards that of Morocco. The Globe Venture Syndicate have constantly denied that they were in any way privy to an attempt to introduce arms and ammunition into Morocco, and declared that their object was the opening of ordinary trade with the Sûs tribes. It seems inexcusable, however, that they should have permitted their agent, Major Spilsbury, to place on board the "Tourmaline" a cargo composed in such large proportions of munitions of war. As matters have turned out no very serious harm has resulted. If, however, Major Spilsbury had succeeded in disposing of the very considerable number of arms on board the "Tourmaline" to the natives of the Sûs district there is little doubt that these tribes would have given very serious trouble to the Moorish Government.

The view which the Sultan and the Moorish Government take of the proceedings of the Syndicate and the difficulty which Her Majesty's Minister has consequently encountered in inducing them to consent to the delivery of the prisoners will be gathered from the various despatches from Sir A. Nicolson which are bound together in a paper cover and marked "G."

It will be noted that the Moorish Government have made a large claim for compensation for the expenses to which they have been put by Major Spilsbury's proceedings.

Her Majesty's Government, while insisting on an adherence to Treaty stipulations with regard to the surrender of the prisoners, have authorized Sir A. Nicolson to give an assurance to the Sultan that all the parties concerned in the case will undergo prosecution for any infringement of the law which can be supported by proper evidence.

A warrant has been issued by Her Majesty's Consular Court for Morocco against Major Spilsbury, charging him, under Article 107 of "The Morocco Order in Council 1889," with the offence of smuggling into the Moroccan territories. This document has been forwarded by Sir A. Nicolson to this Office in case it should be considered executable under the provisions of the Fugitive Offenders Act 1881 on Major Spilsbury in this country.

Having regard, however, to the terms of section 9 of that enactment, it seems open to doubt whether the maximum punishment prescribed by the Morocco Order in Council for the offence which is charged in the warrant is sufficient to bring the matter within the scope of the application of Part I of the Act; but the Attorney-General for Gibraltar is of opinion, for the reasons given in Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 36 of the 15th May (Paper I), that any sentence of imprisonment pronounced by the Court in this case would carry with it some kind of labour, unless such labour were expressly excluded. A separate warrant is ready for execution under Article 108 of the same Order in case of Major Spilsbury's arrival in Morocco.

But the Moorish Government assert that, previous to his escape on board the yacht, Major Spilsbury fired over their steamer and her boats, and hoisted minatory signals, such acts constituting an intention and amounting to an attempt to resist by force the measures which the Moorish authorities were taking in their own waters for the prevention of illegal acts. They also lay great stress on their contention that the chief object of the expedition was to arm the tribes, and thus enable them to rebel against the sovereignty of the Sultan.

The charge which is brought by the Moorish Government against Major Spilsbury and his companions amounts to something very different from smuggling. It is practically a charge of levying war against the Sultan of Morocco. In an ordinary case, such offenders would be tried according to the law of the country against which their warlike or rebellious proceedings were directed. But as they are British subjects, and as Her Majesty has extra-territorial jurisdiction in all cases of crime committed by British subjects in Morocco, but has no power to deal with such offences otherwise than as offences against English law, the situation thus created is one of extreme difficulty.

Although at present no satisfactory means of dealing with this dilemma seems to exist, it appears to be very desirable that some efficient check for the future should be provided. At the time the Morocco Order in Council of 1889 was drafted, the possibility of a British subject levying war upon the Sovereign of the country was apparently not foreseen. While, on the one hand, it is not possible to hand over such a British subject to be dealt with by the Sultan according to Moorish law, Her Majesty's Government, on the other, apparently possess no sufficient power under the Order in Council adequately to deal with such an offence, and it is to be feared that through this technical difficulty the offenders may partially or wholly escape justice.

It is, therefore, a matter for consideration as to whether proceedings can be taken in this country against Major Spilsbury, who appears to be more responsible than those of his subordinates who have been captured in Morocco, and whose trial before the *Sûs* Consular Court is fixed to take place on the 14th proximo.

I am accordingly to request that you will take the Papers transmitted herewith into your consideration, and that you will favour Lord Salisbury at your earliest convenience with your opinion.

1. Whether any, and if so what, proceedings can be taken against Major Spilsbury in this country.

2. If the answer to the previous question should be in the affirmative, whether, having regard to all the circumstances of the case and the nature and character of the evidence obtainable, such proceedings would have a sufficiently reasonable chance of success to render their institution desirable or expedient.

3. Whether the warrant issued by Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Court for Morocco, held at Tangier on the 15th March, 1898, and charging Major Spilsbury with an offence against the provisions of Article 107 of the Morocco Order in Council is executable under "The Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881," in this country, having regard to the fact that the maximum punishment prescribed by that Article consists of imprisonment with or without fine, for a term not exceeding one year, and that section 9 of "The Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881," applies the provisions of Part I of that Act to treason and piracy and to such other offences only as are punishable by imprisonment with hard labour for a term of twelve months or more rigorous imprisonment and any confinement in a prison combined with labour by whatever name it is called being deemed to be, for the purposes of that section, imprisonment with hard labour.

4. If, in your opinion, the warrant is executable in this country, do you consider the

point sufficiently free from doubt to make it desirable to proceed at once with its execution.

5. Whether the powers at present possessed by the Queen are sufficient to enable Her Majesty adequately to deal with, and to punish under the provisions of the Morocco Order in Council, crimes and offences of a serious political complexion committed by British subjects against the Sultan and Government of Morocco.

6. And if not, whether you advise the addition of any, and if so, what provisions to the existing Order in Council for the purpose of more effectually dealing with the matter.

Lord Salisbury will at the same time be glad to receive any observations of a more general nature which you may desire to offer on the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

List of Papers.

- | | | |
|---|---------|-------------|
| (A). Letter to Globe Venture Syndicate | .. .. . | October 20. |
| (B and C). Plunkett's 36 and 78 of the 15th February and 13th April. | | |
| (D). Order in Council, 1889. | | |
| (E and F). Declaration of Captain Siebert and Major Spilsbury's letter. | | |
| (G). Correspondence in cover, marked with cross. | | |
| (H). Despatch inclosing warrant. | | |
| (I). Nicolson's Telegram (No. 36). | | |
| (K). Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 69, May 19. | | |
| (L). Morocco Queen's Regulations, 1892. | | |
| (M). Ordinance to amend the Law relating to the Gibraltar Civil Prison. | | |
| (N). Rules and Regulations for the Civil Prison, Gibraltar. | | |

No. 181.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, inclosing particulars of your claim against the Moorish Government for losses arising out of disturbances in the M'zab district.

Note has been taken of your statement that you have furnished copies of the same documents to Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, and to Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida; and I am to inform you that Sir A. Nicolson will use his best efforts to bring about a settlement of the outstanding claims which arose out of the disturbances in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 182.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord,

Tangier, May 19, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 56 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I brought to the notice of the Grand Vizier the fact that some public sales of slaves had occurred at Saffi, and I reminded his Excellency that the late Sultan had issued orders prohibiting such sales in the coast towns. These orders, I mentioned, had been in general well carried out; but that owing to the change of Governors the orders may have been forgotten, and I should be glad if he would be good enough to renew them.

[1069]

His Excellency conveyed his thanks to me for the information which I had furnished to him, and stated that he would send orders to the Governors of the coast towns to prohibit all public sales of slaves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 183.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 68.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 19, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Moorish steamer the "Sid el Turki," having been armed with some light guns, has been dispatched to the Riff coast to do patrol duty there.

The Spanish Minister informed me yesterday that he had learnt that the French Agent in the Bocoyan district had suggested to the French Legation that in view of the proximity of the Sultan's troops, it would be desirable that a French man-of-war be sent to the Bocoyan coast. I have not heard and should be inclined to doubt that it is intended to accede to that suggestion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 184.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 69.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 19, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have received from the Attorney-General of Gibraltar giving his opinion on the question what kind of punishment the Court for Morocco would be able to impose under Article 107 of the Morocco Order in Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Attorney-General of Gibraltar to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

Gibraltar, May 18, 1898.

IN accordance with your Excellency's request for my opinion upon the question whether the Court can impose with the imprisonment any description of labour for an offence against Article XIII of the Treaty and Article 107 of the Order in Council, I have the honour to state that, in my opinion, the sentence of the Court could not extend beyond the express terms of the Article "one year's imprisonment," and no mention could be made as to labour accompanying the imprisonment.

I would suggest, however, that, under the provisions of the Prison Rules in the Queen's Regulations, the convicted person undergoing his sentence could be subjected to hard labour under Rule 44 in the absence of express provision to the contrary in the Order in Council; for offences or for grave offences against the Order, such express provision is made by Articles 15 and 16.

Under the Prison Rules prisoners appear to be divided into two classes—those unconvicted, and those convicted. (See Rule 28).

The Rules 29 to 47, under the head of Convict Prisoners, must, I think, be taken to refer to all convicted prisoners, and cannot be restricted to those undergoing penal servitude. If all convicted prisoners are not convicts within the meaning of the Rules, prisoners undergoing simple imprisonment or short terms of hard labour would, by the

wording of Rule 28, come under the special class to which Rules 1 to 28 apply. This is clearly inconsistent with the provisions of those Rules.

As the Queen's Regulations have effect as if they were enacted in the Order in Council, I respectfully suggest that the Rules might be construed to impose labour on convicted persons undergoing imprisonment where there was no express provision to the contrary in the Order in Council.

A further point arises: if a prisoner sentenced to one year's imprisonment is sent under Article 32 of the Order in Council to Gibraltar to undergo his sentence, it would be carried into effect under section 7 of "The Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890," as if the sentence had been passed in Gibraltar, and the Gibraltar Prison Ordinance and the Rules made under that Ordinance would apply.

By section 40 of "The Civil Prison Ordinance, Gibraltar, 1889," these Rules have the same force and effect as if they had been enacted in the Ordinance. Rule 161 of the Gibraltar Prison Rules provides as follows: "Provision shall be made by the Board of Visiting Justices for the employment of all convicted criminal prisoners not sentenced to hard labour."

"The Board of Visiting Justices shall make Rules as to the amount and nature of such employment, but no prisoner not sentenced to hard labour shall be punished for neglect of work, excepting by such alteration in the scale of diet as may be established by the Rules of the prison in case of neglect of work by such prisoners."

The Board of Visiting Justices, under this Rule, made the following Regulation:—

"1. Convicted criminal prisoners not sentenced to hard labour may be employed within the prison in any of the following occupations":—

"Lime-washing; painting; hair and oakum picking; pumping and carrying water; carrying stores; cleaning cells or other parts of the prison; washing bedding; clothing, &c."

"2. No such prisoner shall be employed for a longer period in each day than nine hours, during the six months commencing on the 1st day of April, and ending the 30th day of September, and seven hours during the remaining months of each year."

A prisoner sentenced by the Morocco Order in Council to one year's imprisonment would, therefore, if he underwent his imprisonment in Gibraltar, be subjected to the class of labour mentioned in the above Rule, unless under section 23 of "The Civil Prison Ordinance, Gibraltar, 1889," he was sentenced to confinement as a misdemeanant of the first division.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. W. FAWKES.

No. 185.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 250.)

My Lord,

Paris, May 25, 1898.

IN the telegram print Section of the 21st to the 23rd May which reached me this morning, I see a telegraphic despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid, respecting negotiations now pending, according to the Madrid newspaper "Liberal," between the French and Sherrefian Governments.

This information is confirmed by this morning's "Dépêche Coloniale," according to which the French Mission sent to the Sultan of Morocco is demanding, besides a rectification of frontiers, the establishment of a French Consulate at Oudja, the prolongation of the railway from Tlemcen (in Oran) to Oudja, and the laying of a submarine cable along the coast from Algiers as far as Mogador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 186.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 70.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 20, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke relative to the recruiting of Rifians for the Franco-Algerian army.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24.)

Sir,

Tetuan, May 19, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that two of the Bocoyans who were enlisted by the French as soldiers have returned here, and that I saw one of them at the door of the French Consulate in uniform yesterday.

I am informed these men have come here to recruit other men, and it is said five men were enlisted yesterday.

It is also reported here that the Sultan's forces in the Riff are in communication with the Bocoyans, and that the chief part of the tribe say they are not responsible for the men going to Algiers, and that they are ready to join in punishing those of the tribe who allowed their men to enlist.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 187.

Customs to Foreign Office.—(Received June 2.)

Sir,

Custom-house, London, June 1, 1898.

WITH reference to Sir T. H. Sanderson's letter of the 5th ultimo and to my reply of the following day, respecting 371 cases of safety cartridges imported into this port by the vessel "Bluebell" from Antwerp and stored at Anchor Wharf, Limehouse, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the requirements of the Explosives Acts as to the marking of the cases having now been complied with, the Board of Customs have given their consent to the delivery of the goods in question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. T. PROWSE.

No. 188.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 71.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 25, 1898.

THE local and Spanish press have recently published statements that the French Minister had obtained the consent of the Moorish Government to a rectification of the Franco-Algerian frontiers, the construction of a railway from the frontier to Fez, and the laying of a cable from Algiers through Tangier to Mogador.

The French Chargé d'Affaires alluded to these reports during a visit I paid him yesterday, and said they were without any foundation. M. de Monbel had no intention of treating such matters, nor had he received any instructions to do so. His mission to the Court was limited to delivering the presents of the President of the Republic to the Sultan, and to obtaining a settlement of some French claims.

I have not received any information which would lead one to believe that M. de Monbel has been negotiating for any concessions of the nature mentioned in the press, though it is possible that beyond the matters referred to by the French Chargé d'Affaires, he has discussed some proposals of the French bank here in regard to currency questions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 189.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 72.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 25, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that seven Moorish witnesses, who have been sent by the Moorish Government to give evidence in the "Tourmaline" case, arrived here on Saturday the 21st instant, and I had their statements taken down in my presence. They are all men who went with the "Hassannee" to Arksis, and are able to give evidence as to what occurred there, practically, similar to that proffered by the captain of that vessel. As they arrived after the disembarkation of the arms and ammunition they were unable to speak positively as to that fact, though they all said they had heard some had been landed, and one or two stated they had seen the rifles. Their evidence will, I think, prove the intention of trading with the Sûs tribes; but will not carry the case far as to establishing the fact that a certain portion of the cargo had actually been landed. From letters recently received from the Court I gather that some further witnesses will arrive, who are being sought for in the Sûs, and those will possibly be in a position to complete the chain of evidence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 190.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 73.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 26, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 70 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, relative to the disquietude among the Bocoya tribe at the approach of the Sultan's troops, and the appeal of some of its Chiefs for French protection.

The Moorish steamer "Sid-el-Turki," which left this port some days ago for patrol duty on the Riff coast, has now returned to this bay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 190.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 27.)

Sir,

Tetuan, May 24, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that it is the talk among the Riffs here that certain Bocoyans connected with that part of Bocoya from which the French enlisted men came, fearing punishment by the Sultan's forces which are said to be close to them, have been here to appeal to the French Consular Agent, whom they look on as all-powerful for protection, saying you promised to protect us, to send us a man-of-war, and to give us your flag if necessary; now we are threatened, give us the flag.

I also hear that Alush, who had charge of some of the captives, has been here on second visit quite recently.

It is also said here that a big man of the Bocoyans has been to the French

Legation at Tangier, and has returned with the sum of several hundred dollars to distribute among the chief men in Bocoya.

I report these rumours as, though one cannot rely on much that one hears here, I think there is probably some foundation for part of them.

The French Consular Agent received a special courier yesterday from Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 191.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 74.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 28, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 57 of the 27th ultimo, relative to the M'zab claims, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean on the subject.

The German Minister, who is still at the Court, recently informed the Diplomatic Body here that he had suggested to the Grand Vizier that a Mixed Commission should sit at Dar-al-Baida, instead of at M'zab itself, for the settlement of the German claims, which he considered should be liquidated within a fixed period. This proposal, so Baron Schenck stated, received the adherence of his French colleague, who is also in Morocco city, in respect to the French claims; and it will, I think, be concurred in by the other foreign Representatives on behalf of their respective nationals. I have suggested to my colleagues that we should address a collective note to the Grand Vizier supporting the proposal of the German Minister, and endeavour to obtain a simultaneous settlement of our various claims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 67.)

Sir,

Dar-al-Baida, May 25, 1898.

IMMEDIATELY on its receipt I communicated to the merchants concerned the tenour of the Vizier's letter, copy of which was transmitted to me in your despatch No. 38 of the 4th instant.

They have reluctantly come to the conclusion that no equitable settlement is likely to be arrived at on the lines laid down by the Vizier. They believe that, were that gentleman sincere, it would have been simpler for him to have issued instructions to the town authorities to examine and settle the claims, leaving it to the Government to recover the money from those who were to blame for the damage done.

I have ascertained from the Governor of Dar-al-Baida that he has received no instructions relative to these particular claims, and he cannot enlighten me as to the procedure to be adopted.

Many native claimants have proceeded to M'zab with the object of making a settlement, but they found that the local Kaïd was helpless. It is reported to me that he informed them that he was ordered to make other Kaïds pay, and that they refused. In one or two cases an offer of 3 per cent. in full settlement was made, and I think that, perhaps, this may be considered a fair illustration of the Vizier's intentions in the matter. He knows that Kaïds will begin by declaring that the claims presented are false, and that negotiations will be almost interminable, and, if a settlement is arrived at eventually, they will ask for time for payment.

The Kaïds find themselves between "the Devil and the deep sea." They were not responsible for the incidents which engendered these claims, and whatever amount of money they may collect from their people for their liquidation, they will still be called upon to contribute large sums to the Shereefian Treasury and *entourage*.

Their position only concerns me so far as it affects the prospect of compensation being paid to British merchants for their losses, and, in my opinion, such prospect is

indeed dismal if the settlement is to be attempted on the lines proposed by the Vizier.

I am informed that his Excellency the German Minister has refused to accept these proposals as he considers them inadequate and unsatisfactory. My German colleague is of opinion that a Commission, composed of Consular officers and Moorish officials, sitting in Dar-al-Baida, should be empowered to examine and settle the claims.

This is a suggestion worthy of consideration, although I am afraid such machinery would work slowly, and that the Moorish portion of it would not take the responsibility of arriving at a conclusion without reference to their Government.

My French colleague informs me that he has received no communication on the subject, and that the French have demanded a full settlement and interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum until payment has been made.

Mr. Fernan writes to tell me that, in reply to private inquiries addressed to the Kaïd of M'zab, the latter writes that he has received no orders in the matter from the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 192.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 75.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 29, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 62 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that the Grand Vizier, in reply to the remonstrances which I caused to be addressed to him in regard to the ill-treatment of the "Tourmaline" prisoners, has stated that immediately the Moorish Government heard of their capture, orders were sent to treat them with kindness, and if they had been subjected to any ill-treatment it was against the wishes and without the knowledge of the Moorish Government.

I propose after the termination of the trial to obtain full details, signed by the prisoners, of the ill-treatment, and to forward the information to the Grand Vizier requesting that the Moorish Government mark their displeasure of the conduct of Kaïd Gilooly by severely reprimanding him.

I would beg leave to submit, confidentially, that it might be more prudent to limit the demands to a censure, as it would be extremely difficult to obtain a severer punishment. Moreover, though I have no desire to palliate the harshness of Kaïd Gilooly, I doubt if he acted in any vindictive or deliberately harsh manner, but merely followed the course which is adopted, I regret to say, towards all prisoners who have the misfortune to fall into the hands of the Moorish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 193.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 76. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 31, 1898.

THE Spanish Minister informed me to-day that the Russian Minister had communicated to him the text of the remarks which he had made to the Deputy of the Sultan here on paying his first ceremonious visit to that functionary. M. de Bacheracht had stated to Cid Mohammed Torres that he had been somewhat surprised to gather from the press, and from general report, that it was surmised that a Russian Legation had been established in Morocco with a view of assisting and supporting French policy in the country. He wished to assure Cid Mohammed Torres most positively that this was not the fact. His Master, the Czar, had accredited a Minister to this country because His Majesty took a great interest in the maintenance of the integrity and independence of Morocco; that Russia intended to act an independent part here, and not to be attached to any special line of policy France or any other country might wish to adopt.

M. de Ojeda told me that he had been surprised at the precise terms which M. de Bacheracht had employed in his allocution in regard to the complete independence of the action of Russia from that which has been or may be taken by France.

M. de Ojeda further said that M. de Bacheracht had, in private conversations, been at pains to convince him that in Morocco Russia would act in common with all those whose policy was the maintenance of the *status quo*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 194.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 77.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 31, 1898.

THE Deputy of the Sultan informed me this morning that the Sultan's troops had succeeded in inflicting a severe defeat on the Bocoyan tribe—killing fourteen or fifteen of them, and taking 122 prisoners. The troops suffered slight losses. Cid Mohammed Torres stated that the troops arrived in the close neighbourhood of the Bocoyans, and caused a Sherrefian letter to be read announcing the displeasure of the Sultan at their past delinquencies, in punishment of which he demanded payment of a heavy fine and the submission of the tribe. The tribesmen acquiesced in these conditions, and arrived at the rendezvous with the money for payment of the fine, and to announce their recognition of the Sultan's authority. They were then surrounded by the troops with the above-mentioned results. These methods are peculiarly Moorish.

The prisoners, Cid Mohammed Torres said, were being sent in a Moorish steamer to Mazagan, whence they will be transported to Morocco city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 194*.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 126.)

My Lord,

Brussels, June 5, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 120 of the 24th May, I have the honour to forward copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Perry, inclosing the reply of the Director of the Custom-house at Antwerp to his request for the attendance in Tangier of an official who could prove the shipment on board the steam-yacht "Tourmaline" of munitions of war in December last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 194*.

Consul-General Perry to Sir F. Plunkett.

(No. 24.)

Sir,

Antwerp, June 4, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20 of the 11th ultimo, I have now the honour to inclose copy of a reply I have received from the Director of the Custom-house here, in answer to a letter I addressed to him on the 13th May last respecting the shipment of munitions of war on board the yacht "Tourmaline" at Antwerp in the month of December 1897.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. R. DE COURCY PERRY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 194*.

M. Stas to Consul-General Perry.

*Administration des Contributions Directes, Douanes et Accises,
Anvers, le 28 Mai, 1898.*

M. le Consul-Général,

RÉPONDANT à votre lettre du 13 Mai, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître qu'il ne m'est pas permis, sans le consentement de l'autorité supérieure, d'autoriser les employés qui ont surveillé le chargement du yacht "Tourmaline" dans le port d'Anvers au mois de Décembre dernier, à se rendre à Tanger pour déposer devant la justice de cette localité. Si la présence de ces agents est indispensable, il conviendra que l'autorisation soit demandée à M. le Ministre des Finances à Bruxelles. On pourrait peut-être se borner à provoquer la nomination d'une Commission Rogatoire chargée d'entendre les employés sans les obliger à se déplacer, d'autant plus que cinq agents ont à tour de rôle surveillé le chargement et qu'aucun d'entre eux n'est ainsi, isolément en mesure d'affirmer sous serment avoir constaté l'embarquement de toute la partie de munitions de guerre qui a été mise à bord.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) H STAS, Directeur.

No. 195.

Messrs. Hollams, Sons, Coward, and Hawksley to Foreign Office.—(Received June 6.)

Sir,

30, Mincing Lane, London, June 6, 1898.

WITH reference to the defence of the prisoners charged at the Consular Court at Tangier for importing arms and ammunition into Morocco, we think that the evidence of Mr. Arthur Watling, one of the Directors of the Globe Venture Syndicate, is material, and for this purpose Mr. Watling will leave London to-morrow (Tuesday).

We presume we cannot obtain a subpoena for service upon Mr. Watling in England, but we shall be glad to know that if he proceeds without the formality of a subpoena he will be free from arrest.

We are, &c.
(Signed) HOLLAMS, SONS, COWARD, AND
HAWKSLEY.

No. 196.

Messrs. Hollams, Sons, Coward, and Hawksley to Foreign Office.—(Received June 6.)

Sir,

30, Mincing Lane, London, June 6, 1898.

WE are briefing Mr. Ellis J. Griffith, M.P., of 3, King's Bench Walk, Temple, to proceed to Tangiers to defend the prisoners from the "Tourmaline" on a charge, we understand, of importing arms and ammunition into the Empire of Morocco.

Mr. Ellis Griffith will have to proceed overland through Spain, and in these circumstances we beg to request that he may be at once granted a passport.

Will it be possible to let us have this for him during the day?

We are, &c.
(Signed) HOLLAMS, SONS, COWARD, AND
HAWKSLEY.

No. 197.

The Law Officers of the Crown to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

My Lord,

Royal Courts of Justice, June 8, 1898.

WE were honoured with your Lordship's commands signified in Sir Thomas Sanderson's letter of the 25th ultimo, transmitting to us certain papers relating to an expedition which was dispatched under the auspices of the Globe Venture Syndicate, and under the command of Honorary Major A. Gybbon-Spilsbury, in the yacht "Tourmaline" to the Sûs districts of Morocco, and requesting us to advise your Lordship whether any proceedings could be instituted against Major Spilsbury in this country.

We have also the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Thomas Sanderson's notes of the 31st ultimo and 4th instant, inclosing further papers on the subject.

We have taken all the papers into our consideration, and, in obedience to your Lordship's commands, have the honour to

Report—

That, in our opinion, no proceedings can be taken against Major Spilsbury in this country with any reasonable prospect of success.

It does not appear that any acts were done in this country which would bring him within the scope of the Foreign Enlistment Act.

What he really intended to do was to supply arms and ammunition to the Sûs to enable them to resist the authority of the Sultan, in order that the Syndicate might reap the benefit of the Concessions it had from these tribesmen. We do not think that the facts sufficiently show the organizing of any expedition within the meaning of the Foreign Enlistment Act.

It is not a common law offence in this country to take part abroad in resisting the authority of the Government of a foreign country.

2. We therefore think that no such proceedings are desirable or expedient.

3. In our opinion, the warrant issued by Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Court for Morocco charging an offence under Article 107 of the Morocco Order in Council cannot properly be executed in this country. An offence against Article 107 is not made punishable with hard labour, and we do not think that the Prison Regulations can for this purpose modify the effect of the Order in Council so as to bring the case within "The Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881," which applies to offences punishable by imprisonment with hard labour for twelve months or more.

There is nothing to show that the imprisonment is "rigorous," so as to bring it within the definition given by section 9 of the Act in question.

4. We therefore do not advise the execution by itself of this warrant in this country.

5. We think that the powers at present possessed by the Queen are not sufficient to enable Her Majesty to adequately deal with crimes and offences of a serious political complexion committed by British subjects against the Sultan of Morocco. Article 24 (2) incidentally refers to riot as a crime punishable under the Order in Council, but the Order in Council contains no reference to the very serious crime of stirring up rebellion, or supplying weapons and ammunition to insurgents.

6. We think that an Article, the terms of which would require very careful consideration, should be added to the Order in Council for the purpose of dealing with offences of this description.

We think that the circumstances detailed in the despatch from the Commander of the "Hassanee," and in Major Spilsbury's own letter to the Syndicate, show that Major Spilsbury was guilty of the offence of riot and assault within the territorial waters of Morocco. He was co-operating with the insurgents on shore, who were firing on the boat's crew dispatched by the "Hassanee." According to his own admission, he threatened to fire, and, according to the statement of the captain of the "Hassanee," he did fire over the "Hassanee." This clearly amounts to participation in a riot, and the use which he made of his guns amounted to an assault by English law.

The penalty for this offence by English law might be twelve months' imprison-

ment with hard labour, and we would suggest that a warrant might be issued for the arrest of Major Spilsbury by the Consular Court for riot and assault. Major Spilsbury might be arrested on this warrant in this country. The offence committed by Major Spilsbury was of great gravity, but the fact that it had a political complexion will not relieve him from responsibility for the riot and assault of which, on the materials before us, it would appear that he was guilty.

We have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD E. WEBSTER.
ROBERT B. FINLAY.

No. 198.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 47.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 8, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 74 of the 28th ultimo relating to the M'zab claims, in which you report that the German Minister had proposed to the Grand Vizier that a Mixed Commission should sit at Dar-al-Baida to adjudicate on German claims.

You add that you have suggested to your colleagues that a collective note should be addressed to the Moorish Government supporting this proposal, and that endeavours should at the same time be made to obtain a simultaneous settlement of the various foreign claims still outstanding.

The action taken by you in this matter is approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 199.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 50.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 8, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 25th ultimo, I transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels, inclosing a despatch from Mr. Consul-General Perry, giving the reply of the Director of the Custom-house at Antwerp to the request for the attendance at Tangier of an official who could prove the shipment on board the steam yacht "Tourmaline" of munitions of war in December last.

I request that you will lay these papers at once before the Attorney-General of Gibraltar for his consideration.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 200.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Hollams, Sons, Coward, and Hawksley.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, June 8, 1898.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, relating to the intention of Mr. Arthur Watling, one of the Directors of the Globe Venture Syndicate, to be present at the approaching trial of the "Tourmaline" prisoners before the Consular Court at Tangier, and I am to state, in reply to the inquiry contained in your letter, that Mr. Watling must take his own course as to whether he will attend the trial or not, and that Her Majesty's Government are not in position to give him any guarantee in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 201.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 38.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture case.

Tangier, June 10, 1898.

I am informed that Mr. Grey wishes to call as a witness Mr. Beierle, and that his address is known at the Syndicate's offices. Could Mr. Grey's wish be communicated to him?

The opinion of the Law Officers as to execution of my warrant I should be grateful to know, if possible, before sitting of Court on Tuesday next.

No. 202.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

GLOBE Venture.

Foreign Office, June 11, 1898.

In the opinion of the Law Officers the warrant issued against Major Spilsbury can be executed over here, as the offence charged does not fall within the provisions of the Fugitive Offender Act, section 9.

The Law Officers, however, think that in threatening to open fire at the Moorish vessel "Hassanee" and in actually firing over her, as stated by Captain Siebert, Major Spilsbury was guilty of riot and assault according to English law, for which a penalty of twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour might be imposed.

You should, therefore, issue a warrant against Major Spilsbury on a charge of riot and assault under the Morocco Order in Council, Article 24, Sub-Article 2, and send it home.

No. 203.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 39. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, June 13, 1898.

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegram No. 24, I have sent the fresh warrant to your Lordship in a registered packet, by post, to-day.

No. 204.

Question asked in the House of Commons, June 14, 1898.

Mr. Hedderwick.—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office has learned through Her Majesty's Consul-General in Antwerp that the cargo of arms and ammunition, which the prisoners of the "Tourmaline" are alleged to have landed and sold in the Sûs country, was discharged in the port of Antwerp in April last.

Answer.

This case is now proceeding in the Consular Court at Tangier, and, in these circumstances, I should not feel justified in making any statement about it in this House.

No. 205.

Question asked in the House of Commons, June 14, 1898.

Mr. Hedderwick.—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the solicitors employed for the defence of the "Tourmaline" prisoners, about to be tried at Tangier for an alleged sale of arms and ammunition in the Sûs country, have applied to the Foreign Office for, and have been refused, a safe-conduct for a witness for the defence, namely, Mr. Arthur Watling; and, if so, upon what grounds have the Foreign Office based their refusal of a safe-conduct in such a case.

Answer.

No question of safe-conduct arose. It was beyond the power of Her Majesty's Government to guarantee immunity from arrest to the witness in question. Such immunity does not attach to a witness where the possibility of a criminal charge is involved.

No. 206.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 51.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 15, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 75 of the 29th ultimo relating to the course of action which you propose to adopt with regard to the punishment of the Moorish officials concerned in the ill-treatment of the prisoners taken from the steam-yacht "Tourmaline."

Before deciding on the course suggested in your despatch, I should wish to see the statements which you may obtain from the prisoners in order to enable me to judge whether a mere censure of the Moorish officials implicated in this matter is sufficient.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 207.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 40.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, June 16, 1898.

GLOBE Venture case.

With reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 50 of the 8th instant:

Two witnesses would be sufficient and their presence is necessary. They must, of their own knowledge, be able to swear that arms and ammunition formed part of the cargo they saw embarked. The Court sits again on the 30th instant, and it is most desirable that they should be here by that date. It is most difficult obtaining remands, and there are some witnesses still expected from Sûs. During the last three days' sitting, a certain progress was made in the case.

No. 208.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 41.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, June 17, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 81, inclosing warrant, I should be grateful to be informed as soon as it is executed, so that some arrangements may be made here as to the attendance of necessary witnesses.

Between the date of the execution of the warrant and the arrival here of the accused, I suppose I should allow for the lapse of from three to four weeks.

No. 209.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Plunkett.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 17, 1898.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 126 of the 5th instant and to Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 40 just repeated to you, I request that you will take all the steps which may be possible to procure the attendance of the witnesses whose evidence is wanted in the "Tourmaline" case.

No. 210.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 78.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 10, 1898.

THE British Vice-Consul at Mazagan has reported to me the serious overcrowding in the prison at Mazagan, and I recently heard from Mogador that a large mortality was occurring among the prisoners in that port. I have also heard from travellers and others painful accounts of the condition of the prisoners in the interior; and I know that even in the Tangier prison the poorer prisoners would die from want of food were it not that charitable persons made arrangements for supplying them with bread and water.

In 1885 the late Sir John Drummond Hay made unofficial representations, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, on the subject, and I considered that it would be desirable to bring the matter again to the notice of the Grand Vizier. I have the honour to inclose copy of a note which I have addressed to his Excellency, and which I trust may lead to some improvement in the present deplorable condition of the Moorish prisons.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON

Inclosure in No. 210.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid-Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, June 10, 1898.

YOU will understand I am sure, oh friend, that if I draw your attention to certain things which require urgent remedies, it is not from any desire to interfere in the internal affairs of the country, but simply with a view of bringing in a friendly and unofficial manner to your notice matters which, in the great press of your work, may escape attention, or which indeed may not be reported to you.

Of late I have heard that the administration of some of the prisons leaves much to be desired, and that they are much overcrowded, and that the Governors do not take care that the prisoners are properly fed, or that the prisoners are kept in a wholesome and cleanly state.

For instance, I hear that the prison at Mazagan, which is estimated to accommodate 125 to 150 prisoners, now shelters 300, i.e., 60 and more belonging to the district, 130 and more from Abda, and 120 Riffians landed from the "Sid-el-Turki." This overcrowding is already dangerous to the health of the prisoners, and is also a menace to the public health of the town. I am also told that there has been great mortality in the prison on the Island of Mogador.

In the year 1302 (1885) the Moorish Government, on the friendly representations of the late Sir John Drummond Hay, issued Circular instructions to the Governors to take care that the prisons were kept in a proper state, and that no prisoner should be in want of sufficient nourishment and of water. It would be a humane and kind act if, oh friend, you were to repeat these orders, as though I have received direct information only as to two prisons, I have no doubt that the orders I have mentioned would not be misplaced if applied to all the prisons throughout the country. I may add that even in Tangier many prisoners would suffer from want of food if it were not supplied to them by charitable persons, both Moslem and Christian. I trust that your Excellency will receive these representations in the same friendly spirit in which they are dictated, and you will, I am sure, do your utmost to see that the prisoners, even evil-doers, are supplied with those necessities which are required to maintain life in a healthy condition, and may you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 211.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 80.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 11, 1898.

MR. GREY, one of the "Tourmaline" prisoners, is suffering from a skin disease, which, in the opinion of the doctor, can only be properly treated in a hospital, and which he hopes can be cured very shortly.

I have, therefore, while taking the necessary precautions, authorized his transfer to the French hospital. I may mention that as Mr. Grey's health was suffering somewhat from his confinement, and the impossibility of taking proper exercise in the very limited area of the prison yard, I permitted him to take two hours daily walking exercise, accompanied by the gaoler.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 212.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 81.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 12, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a warrant under my hand and seal for the arrest of A. Gybbon Spilsbury on a charge of having committed on or about the 13th January last, on the Sûs coast, in the Empire of Morocco, an act or acts of riot and assault.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 213.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 18, 1898.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 41 of the 17th instant, and also your despatch No. 81 of the 12th instant which arrived this morning. As soon as the warrant is executed you shall be duly informed.

In ordinary as soon as the arrest takes place, the accused will be sent to Tangier in custody, where he would arrive in less than three weeks; but that amount of time would elapse before the trial begins.

No. 214.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 82.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 12, 1898.

THE Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires read to me yesterday a telegram which he had received from a correspondent at Alhucemas, to the effect that the Sultan's troops, aided by friendly tribes, had made a fresh attack on the Bocoyans, and that after a sharp combat, in which both sides suffered losses, four Bocoyan villages were captured and several prisoners made. At the same time, the Moorish steamer the "Sid-el-Turki" succeeded in destroying ten boats belonging to the Bocoyans.

The Sultan's Deputy here had not received any confirmation of this news; but hitherto I have found the Portuguese Legation well and accurately informed in regard to affairs in the Riff territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 215.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 132.)

My Lord,

Brussels, June 19, 1898.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's two telegrams of the 17th instant, I applied yesterday morning both by an official note, and subsequently by word of mouth, to the Minister of Finance, to allow that two of the Customs officials at Antwerp, who had actually seen the arms and ammunition shipped on board the English yacht "Tourmaline" in December last, should proceed to Tangier to give evidence there on this point.

His Excellency promised to look at once into the matter, and to give me his reply at a dinner which I gave for him and the Belgian and British members of the Sugar Conference at this Legation last night.

His Excellency has consented to order two of the men, who actually saw the arms and ammunition embarked, to proceed at once to Tangier so that they may have arrived there before the date fixed by your Lordship, viz., the 30th instant. For this purpose they will have to start from Antwerp the day after to-morrow, unless they travel by the Great Southern express train from Paris, which would vastly increase the expense of their journey.

The Minister of Finance asked me to explain to your Lordship that the Belgian Customs officials, being bound by the "secret professionnel," can give evidence only in so far as they have been officially authorized to speak. He therefore begs you will at once let me know, by telegraph, what are the special points on which Her Majesty's Government desire that these two men should give evidence, as he will then authorize them accordingly.

I told his Excellency that I understood from your Lordship's telegrams, and from previous despatches, that the Custom-house men from Antwerp were required merely to prove that they personally had seen arms and ammunition embarked there on board the "Tourmaline" in December last; but his Excellency said he would prefer to know more precisely what was the extent of the evidence expected from them, in order that he might give the men full instructions before starting.

(Very Confidential.)

The Belgian Government are perhaps afraid that in the course of examining these witnesses the British Consul might try to extract, for the use of Her Majesty's

Government, information in regard to the general habits of the Belgian export trade in arms—a subject on which I notice the Belgians are always reticent, and show suspicion of Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 216.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 42.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, June 20, 1898.

GLOBE Venture Case.

Attorney-General would like to have, if permissible, copy of Syndicate's letter to your Lordship of the 8th February, with its inclosure; also, if possible, from registrar of Joint Stock Companies, certified copy of Syndicate's prospectus or document proving Grey to be a shareholder. That these documents should be here by the 30th instant is desirable.

No. 217.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Plunkett.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 20, 1898.

"TOURMALINE" case.

I have received your despatch No. 132 of the 19th instant.

You should inform Belgian Minister of Finance that it is necessary for the witnesses to be able to declare on oath of their own personal knowledge that the portion of this vessel's cargo, the embarkation of which they witnessed, comprised arms and ammunition.

You should make all the requisite arrangements for the departure of the witnesses from Antwerp to-morrow, and report the time at which they leave, so that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier may be duly warned.

You should convey thanks to the Belgian authorities for the courtesy which they have shown in this case.

No. 218.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 134.)

My Lord,

Brussels, June 21, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 132 of the 19th instant, and to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to report that the two agents of the Antwerp Customs will arrive at Cadiz on Sunday next, in order to embark there next morning for Tangier.

I inclose the time-table prepared for their journey as furnished to me by the Ministry of Finance and, in order that there should be no mistake at Tangier as to what was arranged here in regard to the evidence which the men are to give, I inclose herewith copies of the two letters which I addressed to the Minister of Finance on this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 218.

Sir F. Plunkett to M. de Smet.

M. le Ministre,

Bruxelles, le 18 Juin, 1898.

UN procès important se plaide dans ce moment devant la Cour Consulaire Britannique à Tanger contre certains membres de l'équipage du yacht Anglais "Tourmaline," et il est de la plus haute importance que deux au moins des agents Douaniers à Anvers qui ont surveillé le chargement du "Tourmaline" puissent se rendre à Tanger pour y prêter serment, que parmi les objets qu'ils ont vu charger à bord de ce navire se trouvaient des armes et des munitions de guerre.

Le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Anvers s'était déjà adressé à M. le Directeur des Douanes de cette ville pour le prier de permettre aux employés qui avaient surveillé le chargement du "Tourmaline" de se présenter comme témoins devant la Cour à Tanger. Mais par une lettre datée du 28 Mai, dont copie ci-annexée, le Directeur a répondu que si la présence de ces officiers était indispensable il conviendrait que la demande d'autorisation fût adressée à votre Excellence.

J'ai envoyé copie de cette réponse au Marquis de Salisbury, qui, après en avoir référé au Ministre d'Angleterre à Tanger, me fait savoir maintenant par le télégraphe qu'il est de haute importance que deux des employés qui ont eux-mêmes vu charger les armes et les munitions sur le "Tourmaline" puissent se présenter comme témoins devant la Cour à Tanger Jeudi, le 30 courant; et sa Seigneurie me charge de m'adresser aux bons offices de votre Excellence pour que l'autorisation leur soit accordée à cette fin.

Je serais donc bien reconnaissant à votre Excellence si elle estime pouvoir répondre favorablement à cette demande de mon Gouvernement, et donner les ordres nécessaires pour que ces deux témoins se soient rendus à Tanger pour le 30 courant.

Les frais de voyage et de séjour de ces deux témoins seront dûment remboursés par mon Gouvernement.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 218.

VOYAGE par Express de Bruxelles à Tanger.

1 ^{er} jour.	Jeudi, 23 Juin	.. ..	Bruxelles (Midi),	départ	1 h. soir.
"	"	.. ..	Paris (Nord),	arrivée	6 "
"	"	.. ..	" (Orléans),	départ	10.30 "
2 ^e jour.	Vendredi, 24 Juin	.. ..	Bordeaux (Saint-Jean),	arrivée	7.4 matin
"	"	.. ..	Trun,	"	12.4 soir.
3 ^e jour.	Samedi, 25 Juin	.. ..	Madrid (Nord),	"	6.55 matin.
"	"	.. ..	" (Atocha),	départ	8.5 soir.
4 ^e jour.	Dimanche, 26 Juin	.. ..	Cordone,	arrivée	6.54 matin.
"	"	.. ..	Séville,	"	10.0 "
"	"	.. ..	Cadix,	"	2.9 soir.
5 ^e jour.	Lundi, 27 Juin	.. ..	"	départ	"
"	"	.. ..	Tanger,	arrivée	"

N.B.—La durée de la traversée entre Cadix et Tanger est de 3 heures environ.

Inclosure 3 in No. 218.

Sir F. Plunkett to M. de Smet.

M. le Ministre,

Bruxelles, le 20 Juin, 1898.

JE viens de recevoir un télégramme du Marquis de Salisbury me chargeant de remercier très sincèrement votre Excellence pour la gracieuseté dont elle fait preuve envers le Gouvernement Sa Majesté Britannique en laissant partir les deux agents douaniers pour Tanger.

Il me charge en outre d'expliquer que ces deux agents doivent être en mesure de prêter serment que, de leur connaissance personnelle, la partie de la cargaison du "Tourmaline" qu'ils ont vu embarquée à Anvers comprenait des armes et des munitions de guerre.

Je serai reconnaissant à votre Excellence de donner les ordres nécessaires pour que ces deux agents partent au plus tôt pour Tanger, et j'enverrai demain matin un des Secrétaires de cette Légation au Ministère des Finances pour s'aboucher à cet effet avec M. Kebers.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 219.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 26.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 22, 1898.

"TOURMALINE" case.

I have received your telegram No. 40 of the 16th instant. Two agents of the Belgian Custom-house at Antwerp who will give evidence as to arms and ammunition being included in the cargo shipped at that port are being sent out by the Belgian Government. They are expected to reach Cadiz next Sunday, and to embark for Tangier the following morning.

The bag going to you to-night will take the papers asked for in your telegram No. 42 of the 20th instant except Syndicate's prospectus, which is being procured.

No. 220.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 56.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 22, 1898.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 42 of the 20th instant, I transmit to you herewith a certified copy of the certificate of incorporation of the Globe Venture Syndicate, a certified copy of a certificate of change of address, and a certified copy of the list of shareholders in that Company.* All of these documents have been procured from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, who was, however, unable to furnish a copy of the Company's prospectus, as such papers are not filed in his Department. Steps are being taken, if possible, to obtain a copy of the prospectus by other means.

I also inclose the original of the letter addressed to me on the 8th February last by the Secretary of the Syndicate, forwarding a copy of the account given by Major Spilsbury of his proceedings on the coast of Morocco.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 221.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 135.)

My Lord,

Brussels, June 22, 1898.

IN continuation of my immediately preceding despatch of yesterday, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a letter which I have just received from the Minister of Finance, giving the names of the Belgian Customs officials who will proceed to Tangier for the purpose of giving evidence respecting the arms and ammunition embarked at Antwerp on board the English yacht "Tourmaline."

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

* No. 31.

Inclosure in No. 221.

M. de Smet to Sir F. Plunkett.

M. le Ministre,

Ministère des Finances, Bruxelles, le 22 Juin, 1898.

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire connaître que, pour satisfaire au désir qui m'a été exprimé par votre Excellence de la part du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, des ordres ont été donnés aux Sieurs Cassart, Vérificateur des Douanes, et Van Gaver, Sous-Brigadier des Douanes, à l'effet de se rendre à Tanger pour être entendus devant la Cour Consulaire dans l'affaire du steam yacht "Tourmaline." Ces agents peuvent témoigner sous la foi du serment que, de leur connaissance personnelle, la partie de la cargaison du "Tourmaline" qu'ils ont vu embarquer à Anvers comprenait des armes et des munitions de guerre.

D'après l'itinéraire qui leur sera tracé, les employés en question partiront de la station de Bruxelles (Midi) Jeudi prochain, 23 de ce mois, à 13 heures, pour arriver à Cadix le Dimanche 26, à 2 h. 9 m. du soir; ils prendront dans ce dernier port le bateau partant le Lundi, et arriveront ainsi le même jour à Tanger, la traversée par mer n'exigeant que 3 heures environ.

Les employés ne devant comparaître devant la Cour que Jeudi, 30, l'itinéraire indiqué réserve deux jours pour l'imprévu.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) T. V. SMET DE NAEYER.

No. 222.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 83.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 14, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 82 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke relative to the recent attack by the Sultan's troops on the Bocoyan villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 222.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 30.)

Sir,

Tetuan, June 12, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 28 of the 2nd instant, re capture of Bocoyans, I now have the honour to report that the French Consular Agent has received a list of all the Bocoyans captured by the Sultan's forces.

I am informed that amongst these there are five men, brothers of one of the recently enlisted soldiers, and at least one Spanish-protected person.

I am further informed that the Bocoyans look to the French to obtain the release of all these prisoners, and say that if they do not do so they will never trust them again, and that they will have proved themselves even worse than the Spanish.

I understand that Ci Daddi is at Peñon, very anxious to get away.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 222.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 31.)

Sir,

Tetuan, June 13, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 28 and 30, and with further reference to Bocoyans, I now have the honour to report that some boats came in from the Riff yesterday, and the men in them report that the Sultan's forces have utterly destroyed the four

Bocoyan villages Ygraiash, Tsemoran, Tefensur, and Tousar. These four villages, I understand, are the ones that were principally concerned in the capture of Europeans last year, and from which the French have recently enlisted soldiers. Tefensur is the village Ci Daddi comes from.

The men report that of the Bocoyans thirteen men were killed and four women captured, and that a guard of fourteen men has been placed to watch Peñon to try and capture Ci Daddi, who is therein.

It is also reported here that the people of the surrounding districts have been ordered to capture all the people from this part of Bocoya, and been warned that if they give them shelter, or allow them to escape through their territory, they will be punished.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 223.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 84.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 17, 1898.

THE trial of the "Tourmaline" prisoners was recommenced on the 14th instant, when the Moorish officials and others who were sent from Mogador in the "Hassannee" to Arksis in January last, and who were present in Kaïd Guilooly's tent when the European prisoners were captured, were examined. Their evidence tended to prove that Mr. Grey on that occasion stated that they had landed to trade, and that he produced a book before Kaïd Guilooly which he said contained the Treaties between the British and Moorish Governments authorising them to do so. The captain and two other European officers of the "Hassannee" also gave their evidence, corroborating that of the above witnesses, and also stating that the "Tourmaline" fired a shot from a quick-firing gun over the "Hassannee," and Captain Siebert added that the British ship also fired some rifle shots over the "Hassannee's" boats.

The non-arrival of the witnesses, whom the Grand Vizier has constantly promised to send, prevented any evidence being given as to the actual landing of the rifles and ammunition.

The Moorish Government has sent me thirty-eight rifles and some cases of cartridges which, they allege, were landed from the "Tourmaline," but they have added as yet no evidence in support of this allegation.

If the witnesses from Antwerp arrive by the next sitting of the Court there will then, I think, be no difficulty in proving an attempt to import goods with the intent of evading payment of the duty to the Sultan of Morocco, and the offence would come under Article 108 of the Order in Council; but unless the witnesses from the Sûs arrive, I doubt if it would be possible to convict under Article 107. The failure would, however, lie entirely at the door of the Moorish Government.

There was very considerable difficulty in obtaining a remand till the 30th instant, the counsel for the defence protesting against further remands, and the Court appeared to think that the prosecution have had ample time to obtain the attendance of all necessary witnesses. The prosecution has done all in its power to obtain all the requisite evidence, but has to contend with difficulties which would not arise in other countries.

I may add that Mr. Grey has been unable to find bail, and his bail was again reduced so as to facilitate matters in that respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 224.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 85.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 17, 1898.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 46 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to state that, on the 14th instant, Mr. Griffith, counsel for the defence, applied to the Court for a summons to be issued for the attendance of Mr. Watling as a witness.

[1069]

2 M

Such summons was granted, and I was informed that a witness coming here under a subpoena was free from arrest until he returned to the place whence he came, which would, in this case, have been Gibraltar.

I was advised that there was no evidence before us in any way implicating Mr. Watling in the "Tourmaline" incident, on which a sworn information could be laid and a warrant issued for his arrest at Gibraltar. If he had come to Tangier and given evidence, it is possible that a warrant could then have been issued on his return to Gibraltar; but he remained at the latter place, and did not put in an appearance at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 225.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 86.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 17, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Reid to Mr. Consul Maclean, reporting the arrest of a British semsar and some British mohalats in the Saffi district. Provincial Governors have, of late, frequently committed similar breaches of Treaty stipulations, and in the circumstances it seemed advisable to call the serious attention of the Grand Vizier to the matter. I have, therefore, addressed his Excellency a note, copy of which I beg leave to inclose; and I will inform your Lordship of the reply which I may receive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 225.

Acting Vice-Consul Reid to Consul Maclean.

(No. 42.)

Sir,

Saffi, June 11, 1898.

I BEG to report to you that about daybreak this morning Kaïd Shteewy-ben-Teeby Hermooshy Abdj, in person, accompanied by a band of footmen, surrounded and attacked the house of my firm's semsar, Mohamed-bil-Hadj-el-Hasseeny, and by force made the following arrests:—

Mohamed-bil-Hadj Mukhtar Hasseeny (semsar).
M'hamed-bil-Hadj Mukhtar Hasseeny (mohalat).
Abdelkebir Hadj Mukhtar Hasseeny (young boy brother).
Hadj-el-Hassen-ben-Teeby Shedmy (mokhalat).
Hamed-ben-Mesoud Hasseeny (mokhalat).

No complaint of any kind has been lodged against any of the before-mentioned, nor has any notice been given of the Kaïd's wish to arrest. The last-named, Hamed-ben-Mesoud, has lived in Saffi since his childhood, and is the brother of my firm's semsar, who died suspiciously in Morocco city last year. He is my warehouse foreman, and was sent only a few days ago, with other servants, to superintend the reaping and threshing of my crops ploughed, on joint account with my semsar and agents.

The men in question have all been taken to prison, the house sacked, and all the animals on the place taken, and the couriers who have come in state that Kaïd Shteewy has given orders to thresh the grain. The semsar is only just beginning slowly to recover from a severe attack of fever, and I fear the shock may be too much for him if, as is only too probable, it should be accompanied by harsh treatment.

I have officially notified the Kaïd of Saffi of the arrest, and have demanded the immediate release of the men, which demand he at once dispatched to Kaïd Shteewy.

shall advise you of the result by next courier. My firm's interests in this matter are naturally large: a statement thereof will be forwarded when I have fuller particulars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS REID.

Inclosure 2 in No. 225.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, June 16, 1898.

I HAVE to draw the serious attention of your Excellency to a grave matter, which, I regret to say, is not an isolated case, but one of a series. I have to inform you that, on the 11th instant, Kaïd Shteewy-ben-Teeby Hermooshy Abdj, accompanied by a band of footmen, attacked the house of the British semsar, Mohamed-bil-Hadj Mukhtar Hasseeny, and arrested him together with his young brother and the Mohalateen M'hamed-bil-Hadj Mukhtar Hasseeny, Hadj-el-Hassen-bil-Teeby Shedmy, and Hamed-ben-Mesoud Hasseeny; all these men have been put in prison, the house sacked, and all the animals of the place taken.

These acts have been committed only by a Government official, and in direct violation of Treaty stipulations.

Of late I have had to bring many similar cases to your Excellency's notice, and I have not received any reply from your Excellency to my representations. British-protected persons, and persons in British employ are arrested and imprisoned by Government officials, and when representations are made to the Central Government by the British Representative his requests and remonstrances are passed by unheeded. These facts I am reporting to my Government.

I have now to request your Excellency not only to cause the immediate release of those who are imprisoned but to suspend Kaïd Shteewy from his functions, preparatory to an inquiry being held into his conduct.

I shall later be able to send your Excellency fuller particulars as to the losses incurred by the British firm which had intrusted its interests to the above-named individuals. As I reserve to myself the right of further representation on the subject, the object of the present letter is to obtain the immediate release of the imprisoned men and the suspension of Kaïd Shteewy.

And may you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 226.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 87.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 17, 1898.

A FRENCH steamer arrived here yesterday from Peñon, a small Spanish settlement near Alhucemas, with some 300 Riffians, men, women, and children, on board. The French Chargé d'Affaires told me this morning that these persons had fled to Peñon on the advance of the Sultan's troops into the Bocoyan territory; and that, having received notice from the French Agent (Ci Daddi) that they were imploring French protection, he had, with the consent of the Spanish Governor, ordered a vessel to call at Peñon and bring the party here. He had anticipated only some twenty or thirty, and was surprised when so large a number arrived. As they had sought asylum on a French vessel, he could not well hand them over to the Moorish authorities unless he was assured that they would be permitted to settle tranquilly and without molestation in Tangier and its neighbourhood.

The Deputy of the Sultan here appears to have forbidden their disembarkation, and the vessel, with her passengers, has now proceeded to Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 227.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 59.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 25, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 78 of the 10th instant, and I approve the note which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier with regard to the deplorable condition of the Moorish prisons.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 228.

Home Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 27.)

Sir,

Home Office, June 25, 1898.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that it is reported to him that the Chief Magistrate has declined to indorse the warrant forwarded by you on the ground that there was no information before him but the warrant, and it did not state that the offences charged are punishable with twelve months' hard labour; and I am to point out that for proceeding under the Fugitive Offenders Acts it is in any case necessary that such evidence should be produced as is sufficient to raise "a strong or probable presumption that the fugitive committed the offence mentioned in the warrant" (Section 5), and that the offence charged comes within Part I. It appears that the evidence of the captain of the "Hassanee" would be, in the opinion of the Law Officers, sufficient to establish the charge of assault (see paragraph 6 of their "Opinion" of the 8th instant); but with regard to the charge of riot, it seems desirable that evidence should be obtained to establish the occurrence of an unlawful assembly on the coast of Morocco in January last, which had actually begun to execute the purpose for which it assembled by a breach of the peace and to the terror of the public, and of the participation of the accused therein (see Stephen's "Digest of the Criminal Law," Article 72). Sir Matthew Ridley thinks that in all the circumstances no steps can be taken for the execution of the warrant till the evidence necessary for further proceedings has been obtained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. MURDOCH.

No. 229.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 60.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 27, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 80 of the 11th instant, and I approve of your having sanctioned the removal of Mr. Grey from the Consular prison to the French hospital at Tangier on the ground of ill-health.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 230.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicholson.

(No. 27.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 29, 1898, 7.5 P.M.

SPILSBURY'S case.

Before the Chief Magistrate at Bow Street will indorse the warrant, evidence is wanted in its support.

Certified copies of the depositions on which you granted the warrant should be sent home. Evidence is required:—

1. As to the act of firing on the Moorish steamer "Hassanee," and the boat belonging to her.

2. With respect to the fact of an unlawful assembly on the coast, which resulted in a breach of the peace, and in the accused's participation in it.

No. 231.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 61.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 30, 1898.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 86 of the 17th instant respecting the arrest of a British semsar and some British Mohalats in the district of Saffi.

I approve the note which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.